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NO. 7876 TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1990/SHAWWAL 27, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Sabah in Baghdad; Lebanon not to attend summit

BAGHDAD, May 21. (Agencies) Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed flew in tonight to take part in the Arab League summit conference, prior to the convening of an emergency Arab summit here next week.

Foreign ministers of Oman and Democratic Yemen, Yousif Ben Alawi Abdalla and Shaie Mohsen, respectively arrived with Sheikh Sabah on the same plane.

Asked on his expectations from the Baghdad emergency summit, Alawi said summiters should take positive stands at the level of dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation, particularly Israel's policies of repression and mass killings against defenceless Palestinians and her rejection of all peace efforts in the region.

Sheikh Sabah, who was seen off from Kuwait by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saoud Al Ossaime, Foreign Undersecretary Majed Al Shaheen and the envoys of Oman, Democratic Yemen and Iraq here, is accompanied by a delegation comprising director of the Arab homeland administration in the Foreign Ministry Abdul Hamid Al Baijan, Kuwait's Ambassador in Tunis and Representative to the Arab League Abdul Mohsen Al Jaian, director of the minister's office Abdalla Abdul Razzak and Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Jaber from the Foreign Ministry's Arab desk.

Lebanon has rejected an invitation to attend the summit in Baghdad this month, official sources in Beirut said.

They said Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi had extended the invitation to Lebanese President Elias Hiriawi.

Lebanon had earlier said it would not go to an Arab summit which was not attended by its Arab ally Syria — which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon — and which did not focus on the Lebanese crisis.

Syria, considered one of the pillars of the Arab world, has refused to take part in the summit held in Baghdad.

(See Also Page 9)

41 slain in Srinagar

Cleric assassinated — mourners shot

SRINAGAR, May 21. (Agencies) Indian police opened fire today on a crowd of 100,000 mourners carrying the body of a slain Islamic cleric, killing at least 41 people and wounding 300 in the disputed region of Kashmir, officials said.

Thirty bodies and at least 300 people with bullet injuries were brought to Soura Hospital. Official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a

Giving a different version of the shooting, an official source in New Delhi said the militants opened fire first on paramilitary troops "and in the crossfire approximately 20 people were killed and 40 were wounded."

The shooting came after three gunmen killed the top Islamic religious leader in Kashmir earlier today, pumping 15 bullets into him. The leader of a Muslim rebel group fighting for Kashmir's independence from India accused the Indian army of plotting to kill the Islamic leader, Maulvi Mohammad Farooq, 45.

State government officials blamed the killing on the Kashmiri militants in Jammu-Kashmir.

Several militant groups in phone calls to local reporters denied responsibility.

Farooq, 45, was shot in his office after the three men took him from his house for a "talk," said Farooq's chief aide, Mohammad Maqbool.

He said the youths were dressed in Western clothes and appeared to be Kashmiris.

Farooq suffered 15 bullet wounds in the head, chest, stomach and legs and died later in the Soura Hospital, a doctor said.

Before dying, Farooq said he had been shot by members of a Hindu fundamentalist group called the Shiv Sena, said Farooq's private secretary Mohammad Yaqub.

He said Farooq's last words (Continued on Page 7)

Yemens seal merger plan

Proclamation today

ADEN, South Yemen, May 21. (AP) North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was travelling to Aden today after telling his Parliament he was determined to proclaim a merger between the two Yemens at noon tomorrow.

"However, if you decide otherwise, then I shall return home tomorrow," he said, according to the statement broadcast in the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa as the meeting started.

"I am leaving right now for Aden, taking with me the government ministers, and the planes are ready for you to follow me if you agree."

Shortly after, Sanaa radio reported that the 159-member Shura Council had "agreed with a sweeping majority" to the merger plans.

In Aden, the television was meanwhile broadcasting live coverage of the 111-member Supreme People's Council as one deputy after the other put their signature to the draft merger declaration.

The Shura Council and the Supreme People's Council, Parliaments of North and South Yemen, had begun their separate meetings in Sanaa and Aden earlier in the day amid mounting indications that the new unified state merging the two Red Sea countries was about to be born.

Radio and television were continuously broadcasting national songs, interrupting their programmes to announce proceedings from the two parliamentary sessions and to urge rejoicing over the impending merger.

The merger was first planned for Nov 30, then advanced by six months to May 26. But over the past days there was pressure to advance it even more so that the two Yemens go to the upcoming emergency Arab summit on May 28 in Baghdad, Iraq, as one state.

Official and diplomatic sources said that if the North agrees, then the merger hour will be noon (0900 GMT) Tuesday

Kuwait condemns massacre, urges world to protect Palestinians



A Palestinian woman clutches stones to her chest yesterday as she screams at Israeli border police when waving a Palestinian flag during a clash in the Silwan neighbourhood of occupied Jerusalem. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Palestinian woman shouts at an Israeli border policeman in Gaza after her son was arrested earlier. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palestinians bleed defiant

Riot in Amman

Gunman stabs 9 French tourists

AMMAN, May 21. (AP) Nine French tourists and a Jordanian photographer were injured today when a 28-year-old Palestinian ran amok on a bus with a pistol and a dagger.

Police said the attack was to avenge the shooting deaths of seven Palestinian labourers in neighbouring Israel a day earlier.

Late tonight, thousands of demonstrators angry over the killings in Israel and subsequent violence on the West Bank and Gaza Strip clashed with police during a protest march toward the United States embassy.

Demonstrators waving the Islamic holy book the Quran and chanting slogans against the United States hurled rocks at police on the roads leading toward the embassy, wounding several.

Police used tear-gas and billy clubs in a failed effort to divert the demonstrators away from the mixed residential and business area where the embassy sits.

The police and army deployed a massive force to seal off the street outside the American embassy, with at least five armoured cars and scores of police vehicles blocking the roadway.

Earlier, King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan rushed to the hospital where four tourists and the photographer were admitted, with at least one tourist in critical condition.

In a television address, the King said: "I am surprised why this accident took place in our hospitable nation."

"It is probably related to a feeling of anger ... toward Israel and its crimes, especially for what happened yesterday," he said.

But the violence in Israel Sunday was "not an enough excuse at all for what happened in Amman today," the King said.

President Francois Mitterrand, meanwhile, telephoned the Amman hospital where the wounded were treated, chatted to some of the victims and expressed his sorrow at the attack, a French embassy spokesman said.

Jordanian authorities identified the gunman as Ahmad Badwan, a Palestinian from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip who carried a temporary Jordanian passport and lived in Amman.

The gunman boarded the bus with 30 tourists aboard while it was parked near the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman and "threatened to shoot if anybody moved," said a police official.

"The tourists were scared and many started shouting, which pushed the gunman to fire in all directions from a 7mm pistol," the official said.

In an official announcement, the Interior Ministry said the gunman fired until he ran out of ammunition, then continued his attack with a dagger before surrendering to police.

Police arrested the gunman amid general pandemonium. Pedestrians and nearby shopkeepers panicked when the gunman rang out.

13 killed, 95 wounded

UN chief condemns violence in Israel

JABALIYA CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip, May 21. (Agencies) Soldiers shot and killed three Palestinians and wounded as many as 95 others today as the Gaza Strip erupted into a second day of violence over the massacre of seven Palestinians by an Israeli.

Puffs of black smoke from burning tyres rose above towns and refugee camps in the Strip, home to the seven men gunned down yesterday while waiting for day labourers' jobs in a Tel Aviv suburb.

Women in traditional, embroidered Palestinian dresses shouted and chanted as wounded victims were brought to the UN clinic in this refugee camp today, and youths on rooftops hurled stones at army patrols.



A masked Arab is arrested by police in the town of Taiba. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two of those killed today were women. Arab reports listed 95 wounded by plastic bullets or live ammunition.

The army confirmed the three deaths but said it knew of only 14 injuries. A spokesman said the army was checking the reports of other shootings.

Kuwait today strongly condemned the massacre and urged the world community to offer protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Kuwait "vehemently condemns this butchery which is reminiscent of earlier brutalities and practices of the Zionist gangs," a Foreign Ministry official source said in a statement.

He said Kuwait also calls on the world community to live up to its responsibility in putting pressure on Israel to join efforts aimed at bringing about peace in the Middle East.

The massacre, he went on, adds a new link to the chain of Israeli anti-Palestinian moves which rely on repression and atrocities to terrorise Palestinians and drive them out of their homes in the occupied territories.

The source warned that such Zionist practices would steer the region to yet a fresh cycle of violence.

In United Nations, Arab nations called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss recent violence in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories.

Some diplomats said they might try to invite Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meanwhile, condemned the violence in Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan and called for negotiations on a Middle East peace as soon as possible.

No council meeting was scheduled today or tomorrow morning. The 15-member council held closed, informal consultations today on the Arab request for a meeting. The session was inconclusive and a second closed session was scheduled tomorrow morning.

After informal council consultations today, Arab diplomats said they wanted representation "at the highest level," referring to Arafat, who now is in Baghdad.

Violence also spread today inside Israel's borders, where a general strike was called by leaders of the 800,000 Israeli Arab citizens to protest the massacre and the shooting deaths of seven other Palestinians by soldiers in subsequent riots yesterday.

Swastikas were painted on walls in the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Haifa, and 14 youths were reported wounded by police during day-long protests in the northern town of Nazareth.

At least eight soldiers or police and two Israeli civilians were reported injured by stones today in Gaza or inside Israel, where protests by Arab citizens erupted in a half-dozen towns.

(Continued on Page 2)

Azad Kashmir Pro-Benazir allies win

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 21. (AP) Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party captured two of the 39 seats up for grabs today in a state assembly election in the Pakistani-held part of the disputed region of Kashmir, initial results showed.

The main issue in the campaign involved Pakistan's support for the Kashmiri rebels fighting for independence from neighbouring India. Muslim fundamentalists in Pakistan are calling for the government to begin arming and training the rebels, but Benazir has rejected those calls.

Earlier story — Page 7 —

Palm award for 'Wild at Heart'

CANNES, May 21. (AP) "Wild at Heart," a bloody, sexually explicit black comedy by US director David Lynch, won the Golden Palm award tonight as the best film at the 43rd Cannes Film Festival.

The host country's favourite, French box-office idol Gerard Depardieu, was honoured as Best Actor for his title role in "Cyrano de Bergerac," a lavish costume drama that broke French records for a film budget.

Krystyna Janda of Poland won the Best Actress award for her portrayal of a dissident who undergoes torture in "The Interrogation," by Polish director Ryszard Bugajski.

The Best Director award went to Pavel Lungin of the Soviet Union for his first film, "Taxi Blues," a look at the seamy side of glasnost.

Another Soviet director, Gleb Panfilov, was honoured for Best Artistic Contribution for "The Mother," the story of a Russian woman's anguish as her son becomes radicalised by the family's harsh life under Czarist rule and is tried for subversion.

The jury's Grand Prize, traditionally a sort of runner-up award, went to two films from other continents — "Sung of Death" by Kobi Oguni of Japan and "Filai" by Idriess.

The Grand Prize for technical achievement was awarded to Pierre Lhomme.

Shooting spree in States

MELBOURNE BEACH, Florida, May 21. (AP) A gunman shot two people on Friday morning and took one of his victims hostage in a church, police said.

The man shot the people about 8:45 am (1245 GMT), said Julie Wolinski, a police spokeswoman in Melbourne Beach. He then

barricaded himself inside the Episcopal church, Saint Sebastian-by-the-sea.

No one else was believed to be inside the church, she said. But reporters at the scene heard a man and a woman screaming, leading them to believe two people were being held hostage.

Thousands of riot police, paramilitary troops and soldiers have been patrolling the streets on foot and in machine gun-mounted jeeps but have failed to stop the shootings.

Today's clash erupted when police surrounded the house of an MQM worker and tried to search it, police said.

Earlier Story Page 7

Ten killed in Hyderabad clashes; president urged to declare emergency

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, May 21. (AP) Gunmen and police fought pitched battles today in the city's most populated neighbourhoods, leaving 10 people dead and 34 wounded as a week of bloodshed continued, authorities said.

Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in two more violence-prone districts and ordered police to shoot violators.

At least 46 people have been killed and hundreds wounded in indiscriminate outtings that began May 15, authorities said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the latest wave of violence in Hyderabad, a city of 3 million in southern Sind province. But police blame a renegade faction of a militant Indian immigrant party, called the Mojahid Qaum Movement.

In the federal capital of Islamabad, opposition parties charged Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's 17-month-old government had failed to restore order to her home province and asked President

Ghulam Ishaq Khan to declare a state of emergency.

"The lives and properties of all Pakistanis living in Sind have been rendered totally insecure. Business is suffering ... and the city of Hyderabad is under attack of rocket launchers," the opposition parties said in a statement.

"Private militias under the command of Pakistan People's Party and members of the prime minister's family are being organised and the government of Sind,

instead of discharging itself of its duties, seems to be leading the province straight into civil war," it said.

Thousands of riot police, paramilitary troops and soldiers have been patrolling the streets on foot and in machine gun-mounted jeeps but have failed to stop the shootings.

Today's clash erupted when police surrounded the house of an MQM worker and tried to search it, police said.

Earlier Story Page 7

Israelis making supercomputers

WASHINGTON, May 21. (AP) Disheartened by US reluctance to allow the export of supercomputers to Israel, Israeli scientists have begun research for an innovative system more powerful than anything the United States has now, university officials say.

Three Israeli institutions have applied for licences to buy Cray and IBM supercomputers, but the permits have been held up out of concern that Israel might use the fast-computing system to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Technion applied in 1988 for a Cray-2 for scientific and engineering research. The Weizmann Science Institute and Bar-Ilan University also have pending licence requests.

DAY BY DAY

I READ several articles of those who expound on the future of the one-family concept of our society.

Relatedly, I just remember the local proverb: "He hit me and proceeded to complain against me."

The query it raises is: "Who really tried to play with the unity of the Kuwaiti family and who desired everything tailored to his dimensions and presumed that all else is ill-fitting?"

Apparently, some people will not be satisfied until they sit in someone's place — or else, all issues become void and wrong.

Zahed Matar



Little mermaid poses in Cannes

A mermaid poses at the entrance of the palace festival before the screening of a Walt Disney production 'The Little Mermaid' at the 43rd International Film Festival in Cannes on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

CAMP BLANDING, Florida: A company commander leading 400 soldiers on a conditioning run collided with a deer and was knocked unconscious, authorities said Thursday.

Captain Ian Erickson did not know what hit him May 7, until he regained consciousness inside an army ambulance and tasted deer fur in his mouth, said Capt. Pauline Geraci, a public affairs spokeswoman.

"He said the deer came crashing out of the woods — just leaped at him," Mrs. Geraci said. Other soldiers "said it sort of sideswiped him and tumbled with him and then got up and ran off."

Erickson was left with clipped teeth, smashed glasses, whiplash-like pain and a gash in the back of his head that required stitches, the spokeswoman said. He has returned to his base at Fort Clayton, Panama, she said. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: Former US President Ronald Reagan brought a patriotic message Thursday to a celebration of the University of Pennsylvania's 250th birthday saying "the world is giddy with democracy."

Reagan, 79, kicked off three days of ceremonies commemorating Penn's founding 250 years ago by Benjamin Franklin as the college of Philadelphia.

"I dated a girl from that first Penn class," he joked. Pointing to the decline of communism in Eastern Europe, Reagan said, "the Soviet empire, as we meet, is crumbling around the edges and from within."

"What has made the United States great is that ours has been an empire of ideals — the ideals of freedom, democracy, and a belief in the remarkable potential of the individual," he told a crowd of about 10,000 at the civic centre.

Estefan makes first public appearance

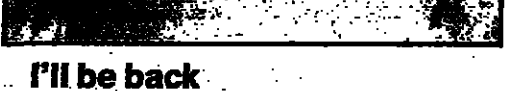
MIAMI, Florida, May 21, (AP): Gloria Estefan made her first public appearance in the Miami area since the tour bus accident that left her with broken vertebrae.

MS. Estefan lead singer of the Latin pop group Miami Sound Machine, was cheered by thousands of fans at the Miami arena on Wednesday when she was introduced as "the special surprise of the night."

Her husband, Emilio Estefan, helped her around the stage.

Ms. Estefan received an award, but did not sing during a variety show that will be broadcast later on Spanish-language television. She is not expected to resume performing until September.

She was injured March 20 on a snowy Pennsylvania highway when her tour bus stopped for a jackknifed tractor-trailer and was rammed from behind by another truck.



I'll be back

Help Mr. Wizard, a 1-pound (454-gram) amphibian with a sparring soul, beat back a challenge by a trio of African Goliath frogs to win the 1990 jumping frog judge. Wizard, owned by Siegfried Jacob of Concord, California, jumped 18 feet, 3 inches (557 centimetres), beating 72 other finalists Sunday in the 62nd annual event that drew a capacity crowd of 8,000 to this Calaveras county hamlet.

Three African Goliaths, owned by Seattle, Washington, animal collector Andy Koffman (shown above demonstrating the difference between his African frog (left) and a normal frog) tizzled in the colourful event — disqualified because they couldn't fit on the starting pad or simply couldn't jump far enough. But after the meet, Koffman declared, "I'll be back." (Reuters wirephoto)

3 killed in NY Bar shooting

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Three men sprayed a Harlem bar with gunfire, killing three patrons, and left behind photos of themselves posing with their guns, police said.

Two Polaroid snapshots were found yesterday on the floor of the International Bar, said Capt. William Roe. In the pictures, three men are displaying a machine pistol, a rifle and an automatic pistol.

Some patrons recognised the gunmen in the photos or knew them by nicknames, Roe said. Witnesses said the three had posed for a street photographer in the bar early yesterday and were headed for the door when they wheeled and fired 15 shots into the crowd, the New York Post reported today. About 40 to 50 people were in the bar.

Police said they had no motive for the shootings. The bar's owner, Leonard Williams, said there had been no fights or arguments shortly before the shootings. He said several men near the dance floor opened fire and yelled, "everyone get down get down on the floor."

He said that within seconds, the men had fled and many patrons had run out in panic. He said he did not recognise the men.

"If it was robbery, then they changed their minds," he said.

"Americans have always been larger than life. We wanted to establish the best government on Earth, we wanted to put a man on the Moon. This is the spirit we set loose," he said. (AP)

US pilot attempts round-the-world flight in float-plane to break record

SEATTLE, May 21, (Reuters): An American pilot took off yesterday from Seattle in a single-engine plane equipped with floats in an attempt to become the first person to fly around the globe landing only on water.

The flight by 53-year-old former Alaska bush pilot Tom Casey began 63 years to the day that Charles Lindbergh set off on his historic solo flight across the Atlantic. Casey's Cessna 206 float-plane, the

Liberty II, took off from Lake Washington in the US northwest for a 26,000-mile (42,000-km) journey expected to take 60 days.

"It's never been done before," he said. "I'm going to be flying over mountains, oceans, deserts, glaciers and icebergs. No one has ever flown around the world in a float plane before."

Casey planned to pilot his red, white and blue plane over Alaska, the Soviet Union

and Europe, touching down on the Moscow river in the Soviet Union, the Seine in France and other major waterways.

However, last-minute negotiations with the Soviet Union may force him alter his route across that country, he told reporters just before cranking up his engine and heading for Alaska.

"I'm 95 per cent sure I'll fly over the Soviet Union. I'm just waiting for a

navigator," he said. Casey will make most of the trip alone but would be required to carry a navigator across the Soviet Union.

He is scheduled to complete his trip in 60 days, in time for the July 21 opening ceremonies of the Goodwill Games in Seattle. The event, a replay of the Goodwill Games held in Moscow in 1986, is drawing athletes from dozens of nations and will be televised around the world.

Passive smoking causes heart disease

Non-smokers have higher risk of dying

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Non-smokers who live with smokers have a 20 per cent to 30 per cent higher risk of dying from heart disease than do other non-smokers, a researcher has reported.

"Passive smoking causes heart disease, and the number of deaths due to heart disease is 10 times the number due to cancer," said Stanton Glantz of the University of California, San Francisco.

In his 1986 annual report on smoking and health, the US Surgeon General concluded that passive smoking causes lung cancer in non-smokers. At that time, the evidence was insufficient to link passive smoking with heart disease, the report said.

Newer studies have changed that, Glantz said Friday in a telephone interview. "The evidence that passive smoking causes heart disease is stronger today than the evidence was in 1986 that passive smoking caused lung cancer," Glantz said.

Glantz's study follows one week after the environmental protection agency said it will soon declare environmental tobacco smoke a known carcinogen.

The regulatory agency concluded that passive smoking causes 3,000 cases of lung cancer, a usually fatal disease, per year. Glantz said passive smoking also causes 32,000 heart disease deaths per year.

"The heart disease deaths combined with the cancer deaths make passive smoking the third leading cause of preventable death, behind smoking and alcohol," he said.

Glantz is a statistician who conducts research in cardiology. His collaborator in the study, Dr. William Barlow, is a cardiologist, chief of the division of cardiology at University of California, San Francisco, and a past president of the American College of Cardiology.

The tobacco institute, which represents cigarette makers, said the Surgeon General had failed to find proof that passive smoking causes heart disease.

Brennan Dawson, a spokeswoman for the institute, said in a telephone interview Friday that there have been only three studies since the surgeon general's 1986 report, "and they continue to support the conclusions" that there is no proven link between passive smoking and heart disease.

Glantz disagreed. "There are now 11 studies of the effects of passive smoking on heart disease deaths" in non-smokers, he said. "All but one of the tobacco industry-funded show an increased risk." The individual studies show increased risks of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent.

Asthma is more common among children in the UK, and the increase may be caused by the smoking habit of their mothers, according to a research published in London today.

The study of almost 30,000 children in 22 areas of England between 1973 and 1986 has confirmed doctors' suspicions that the condition has become more prevalent, rather than simply being diagnosed more accurately.

In remarks presented yesterday the world conference on lung health in Boston, Glantz said research is beginning to show exactly how cigarette smoke alters the heart, blood and arteries to increase the heart disease risk.

Glantz presented a study in which he reviewed others' research on the subject.

Reagan's letter to fetch record price

WASHINGTON, May 21, (Reuters): A four-page letter written in 1967 by Ronald Reagan to his daughter Patti in which he warns against fudging the truth is expected to fetch the highest price ever paid at auction for a living person's letter, an auction house said yesterday.

The handwritten letter was consigned by an unidentified seller to Herman Darvick Autograph Auctions of New York. Darvick said he expected it to bring between \$40,000 and \$45,000 when it is sold in New York on June 7.

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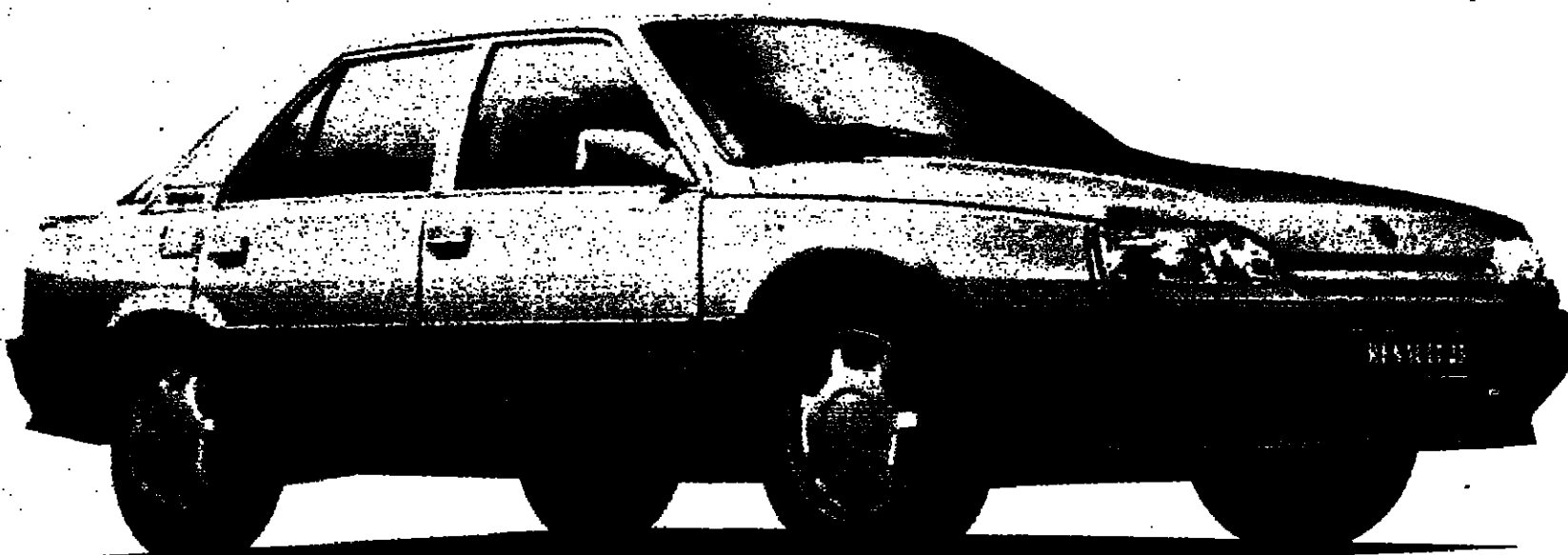
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Flotilla reaches edge of Cuba

KEY WEST, Florida, May 21. (AP) A flotilla of private boats has sailed across the wave-tossed Florida Straits to rally for democracy just outside the territorial limits of communist Cuba.

Cuban patrol boats were waiting for them yesterday, but there were no confrontations, said Lieut Cmdr Jeff Karonis, a coast guard spokesman.

"It was a very emotional moment for all the Cubans who participated in this," said Julio Rebull, a Cuban exile living in Miami. "We felt we were right in front of the wall, like the Berlin Wall, that separates our people."

Although 34 boats sailed from Key West at sunrise, only 24 made it all the way to the rendezvous point about 20 miles (32 kilometres) north of the Cuban coast by early afternoon, Karonis said.

The flotilla sailed parallel with the Cuban coast for about six miles (10 kilometres), then headed back across the strait for Key West, said petty officer Luis Diaz.

Exiles tossed wreaths of flowers and bottles with messages into the water, Rebull said.

For seven minutes, a Roman Catholic priest read prayers to a Cuban operator monitoring the radio communications channel from the lighthouse at Havana harbour, he added.

"By just looking and knowing on the horizon that we were less than an hour away from our homeland... everyone was crying," said Rebull, 53. "For me personally, it was the most emotional moment in my 30 years of exile."

Rebull said the Cuban operator acknowledged receiving the message, but made no further response.

The ocean current carried the messages and flowers north, away from Cuba.

Coast guard cutters on patrol in the straits monitored the flotilla by radar, but did not provide an escort, coast guard officials said.

They had warned the exiles to protest verbally but go along peacefully if they were intercepted by Cuban defence forces, and also warned them that Cuba claims a territorial sea extending 12 miles (20 kilometres) or more from the coastline.

The expedition was billed as a peaceful demonstration against Cuba's communist government as well as a celebration of Cuba's independence from Spain.

"It will bring a message of solidarity and support for efforts seeking democracy in Cuba," spokesman Jose Basulto said before the flotilla sailed.

Backers had said they had expected more than 100 boats to take part. But Diaz said that no more than 51 signed up, and only 34 actually left Key West.

For reasons ranging from breakdowns to not wanting to buck 5-foot (1.5-metre) waves in the centre of the 90-mile-wide (145-kilometre-wide) straits, 10 of those 34 stayed on this side, Diaz said.

It's not the first time Cuban exiles have ventured into the Florida Straits to protest Castro's government. In September 1988, two boatloads of exiles left Key West to protest human rights abuses on the island. Cuban gunboats stopped them 17 miles offshore.

As the flotilla headed south yesterday morning, two Cubans escaping the island on a raft of inner tubes were spotted by a pleasure boat in the straits about 20 miles (32 kilometres) east of Key West.

Karonis said the sunburned pair were picked up by a coast guard boat and brought in to Key West, where they were turned over to US immigration authorities yesterday afternoon.

Nicaragua: Contra guerrilla commanders confirmed they have suspended disarmament and said they won't order their troops to put down their weapons unless their personal security can be guaranteed.

"Demobilised fighters are not getting the treatment they deserve," said Oscar Solvalbarro, the second-ranking Contra commander, in a Saturday evening interview with the Associated Press.

Solvalbarro, known as "Commander Ruben," said demobilised Contras were being harassed by Sandinistas and weren't getting enough food, medical care and assistance in establishing themselves in civilian life.

Dominican Republic: Officials announced a temporary halt of counting yesterday in a close presidential race between incumbent Joaquin Balaguer and ex-president Juan Bosch, who has accused his rival of fraud.

Immigration debate gains legitimacy in Australia

Politicians, academics call for a cut or at least a reassessment of current policy

SYDNEY, May 21, (Reuters): Australia, a nation built on successive waves of migrants, have never found it easy to come to grips with immigration.

"In over 200 years there has always been the argument from those already here that no one else should come," said Carl Harbaum, chairman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.

The immigration debate bubbled to the surface again this month, but this time the discussion was based more on economics than emotion.

Some of Australia's most senior

politicians and academics called for a cut, or at the very least a reassessment, of the present immigration policy which increases the population by around one per cent every year. Australia's current population is around 16 million.

In the past, attempts to state a debate on immigration have degenerated into slanging matches. This time the charges of racism laid against those who dared call for a cut in immigration were conspicuous by their absence.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke told a news conference last

Wednesday that he welcomed an unprejudiced debate on the issue. "I welcome any informed and unprejudiced debate in this country about immigration," Hawke said.

"I have a commitment to immigration and what it has meant to this country, but that doesn't mean I think there is a sacredness about this issue which precludes debate."

Former finance minister Peter Walsh rekindled the debate by saying Australia's record level of immigration was fuelling demand in an overheated economy and had to be cut.

Australia allows 150,000 migrants entry each year. Immigration officials say it is taking more people per head of population than any other country with the exception of Israel.

"It is beyond any reasonable doubt that the present immigration programme is seriously aggravating our short and medium-term economic problems," Walsh said.

"The additional demand for housing and other social infrastructure investment arising from immigration-induced higher population growth has a greater adverse impact on the current

account."

Until 1959 Australia conducted a white Australia immigration policy. Today over 40 per cent of migrants come from Asia compared with 19.3 per cent from Britain and Ireland and 5.2 per cent from Europe.

For the past two decades determining the rate and composition of immigration has become a political nightmare for Australian governments faced with a vocal and highly politicised ethnic community.

"In the late '70s and '80s migration became a sacred cow and now to

challenge it means you are labelled racist," said Robert Birrell.

"They (ethnic leaders) can't differentiate between an opinion on immigration and an opinion on migrants. They take it very personally."

This time, however, Walsh's comments attracted support from senior politicians, academics and media commentators.

Former Immigration Minister Stewart West called for a reassessment of the annual intake on economic grounds, saying the present rate could be cut by 40,000.



Marching for victory

Supporters of Colombian Liberal presidential candidate Cesar Gaviria march (left) near a military patrol. At right, Gaviria makes the victory sign on Sunday at the close of his campaign. (Reuters wirephotos)



7 hurt in Bogota car bomb blast

Bogota candidate stays at home

Navarro fears for life

BOGOTA, May 21, (Reuters): A car bomb exploded in a Bogota suburb last night, injuring seven people, hours after campaigning closed for Colombia's May 27 presidential elections.

Police said a jeep containing 40 kg (90 lbs) of explosive blew up in a residential area of northwestern Bogota.

A police spokesman said three people were hurt but a spokesman for a nearby clinic told local radio seven people had been treated there for slight injuries. The blast badly damaged surrounding houses and destroyed several cars, witnesses said.

Nobody claimed responsibility. Police accuse drug barons, waging a nine-month-old war on the state, of planting at least seven car bombs which have killed more than 60 people in the last two months.

Local residents said no politicians lived in the area and they could not understand why the bomb had been planted there.

Colombian radio quoted authorities as saying the bombers had abandoned the car after being unable to get close to their intended target, a nearby shopping centre.

The bomb exploded after a tense official end to campaigning in Bogota, where tanks and truckloads of soldiers guarded candidates whose lives are endangered by drug baron-backed assassins.

Unlike other presidential candidates who were attending closing election campaign rallies yesterday, the last day of campaigning, Navarro said he was staying at home.

"I am not attending the closing rally for a very simple reason. If I go out I will not make it until the 27th," Navarro said in an interview at his heavily fortified home in a prosperous Bogota neighbourhood.

Navarro, 42, was nominated to succeed Carlos Pizarro as a candidate in May 27 elections after Pizarro, who led M-19 and turned the feared group into a political party, was shot dead aboard an airliner last month.

Pizarro was the third presidential aspirant to be assassinated in nine months in the bloodiest campaign in living memory. The government has blamed powerful cocaine barons, who are waging a nine-month-old war on the state, for all three murders.

Navarro, who has been in prison for anti-government activities, said he had not left his house since Pizarro's April 28 funeral.

Cesar Gaviria, the ruling Liberal Party candidate and strong favourite to win, was flanked by a dozen bodyguards with guns bulging beneath their jackets when he appeared at an indoor stadium in Bogota.

Security was also tight at closing rallies by Gaviria's main rivals, Rodrigo Lloreda of the Social Conservative Party and Alvaro Gomez, leading a break-away conservative group.

Police blamed the drug barons for the assassination of three presidential candidates in the past nine months. Gaviria, an outspoken opponent of the drug

traffickers, has received many death threats.

Colombian newspaper publisher Luis Gabriel Cano accepted a press freedom award today and said he believed his country was nearing a decisive stage in its battle against cocaine traffickers.

But cash-strapped Third World countries bought fewer weapons and spent less money on them in 1989 — about \$16 billion — than at any time since 1976, said the 700-page report.

In 1989, "the prospects for lasting peace have considerably improved, particularly in Europe. But peace has not yet broken out," said Walter Stuetzle, director of the 24-year-old research institute.

The institute, financed by the Swedish government, tracks developments in global arms trafficking, military conflicts and disarmament initiatives.

Speaking at a news conference, Stuetzle, a former West German undersecretary of defence, said the US-Soviet Strategic Arms Treaty under negotiation would not reduce nuclear arsenals enough to have an impact on military capabilities.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced after talks in Moscow on Saturday that they had made major progress that may allow a treaty to be initiated at a

No peace prize yet: research

26 acquired ballistic missiles

STOCKHOLM, May 21, (AP): Global military spending barely declined last year and the public has gleaned no "disarmament dividend or peace prize" from the end of the cold war, arms researchers reported today.

In its annual yearbook, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute also reported that 26 developing countries have acquired ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear, chemical or biological warheads.

The proliferation of these missiles "has created a new fear of arms races among emerging regional powers," said the institute, known by its acronym, SIPRI.

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US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced after talks in Moscow on Saturday that they had made major progress that may allow a treaty to be initiated at a

summit next week and signed before year's end.

Stuetzle said the actual reductions of long-ranged nuclear weaponry outlined in the treaty amounted to 30 per cent to 35 per cent of the superpowers' arsenal, rather than the 50 per cent originally called for.

The report also noted that: — The number of wars and major regional conflicts fell last year to 32 from 35, the fewest in three years. In addition, about 75 smaller conflicts were waged, defined as involving fewer than 1,000 deaths.

— The Soviet Union led the world in arms exports last year, though the value of those sales shrank to \$11.6 billion from \$12.5 billion the previous year and from \$14.7 billion in 1987. Nearly three-fourths of the Soviet arms were sold to Third World countries. US arms exports totalled \$10.7 billion and about 76 per cent went to industrial nations.

— India, for the third successive year, was the world's largest arms importer, spending \$3.8 billion. Japan was second, spending \$3.1 billion.

— The cost will be enormous for destroying chemical weapons, even for those countries like Belgium and Denmark still keeping 75-year-old stocks from World War I. The United States will have to spend \$3 billion to destroy its stockpiles, while the Soviet Union still doesn't have the technology to safely demolish its arsenal.

— Genetic engineering has raised fears that new biological weapons may be created. The report pointed to a \$3 billion US project to map the location of human genes which could, if misused, isolate the genes of certain peoples for biological "ethnic weapons."

— East Germany has been involved in an intense public debate over whether to prosecute or forgive people who helped the communist regime maintain its grip on power through intimidation, harassment, surveillance and imprisonment of dissidents.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

11 hurt in Missouri tornado: A tornado tore through two trailer parks on the edge of Rogersville, Missouri, injuring at least 11 people, including two children in critical condition, authorities said.

A 3-year-old boy and his 6-month-old brother were found in the rubble of a trailer home and were taken to St. John's regional medical centre in nearby Springfield, said Rogersville police chief Mike Crider.

Several residents were cut by broken glass when the tornado hit Sunday night, he said. The national weather service said nine people were treated at hospitals in Springfield, 12 miles (19 kilometres) west of Rogersville, and released. (AP)

UK ozone study: A British research programme has been set up to study the destruction of the earth's ozone layer, the greenhouse effect and acid rain. It was announced in London Monday.

Launching the scheme, the UK Science and Engineering Research Council said the seven-year programme, costing \$4.4 million, would study the detailed chemical processes that take place when pollutants are released into the atmosphere.

6 suspected captors shot: Malaysian police shot dead six suspected kidnappers in separate raids in Penang, north of Kuala Lumpur today.

Five of them, including two Thais, were shot in a double-storey semi-detached house, according to police sources.

Four died on the spot while one collapsed on the way to the Penang General Hospital, the sources said.

Italian layman beatified: Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian who helped the urban poor earlier this century, was beatified Sunday by Pope John Paul II, who praised him as a model for lay Catholics.

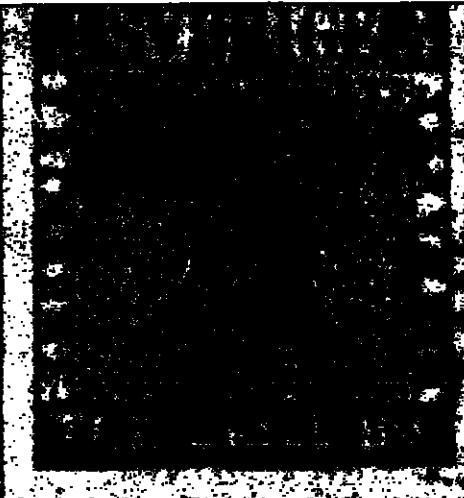
Beatification is the last major step before sainthood in the Roman Catholic church.

About 50,000 people attended the ceremony in St. Peter's Square. (AP)

Jewish 'copy-cat attack': British police were investigating an alleged "copy-cat" on a Jewish cemetery in London, following similar incidents in France, it was reported Monday.

Vandals daubed swastika and slogans on graves at the cemetery at Edmonstone, north London.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said they were treating the incident as a "one-off situation," with nothing to suggest the start of an "anti-Jewish backlash."



Record sale

This unique Swedish three shilling yellow postage stamp printed in 1855 has been auctioned for a record 1.9 million Swiss francs (nearly \$1.4 million) in Zurich, Switzerland, on Saturday. The stamp was sold by the David Feldman auction house to a Swedish industry magnate who bid by phone. (Reuters wirephoto)

Malaysia fleet reviews: The Malaysian paramount ruler, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong today inspected the international royal fleet review in Penang, north Kuala Lumpur in which 61 ships from 20 countries took part.

His Majesty reviewed fleet from the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) fleet Kd Mutiara.

Navies from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Britain, United States and USSR and host Malaysia were taking part. (Kuna)

16 shot by mistake: Sixteen people were missing and thought dead after government troops opened fire on a group of civilians by accident, mistaking them for rebels fighting a guerrilla war in northeast Uganda, the state-run newspaper New Vision reported Monday.

Arkansas

Flash floods

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas, May 21, (AP): New floods have brought misery to the southwestern United States, but in a different area than one hit by hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and 13 deaths over the past three weeks.

Flash floods turned streets into rivers in Hot Springs and pushed lakes out of their banks, sweeping away cars and stranding residents of Lakefront homes on rooftops in yet another onslaught of high water.

The flooding followed thunderstorms that began Saturday afternoon and brought up to a foot (30 centimetres) of rain and high winds to central Arkansas by early last morning. The water receded by late morning, revealing extensive damage along the resort city's central business district, authorities said.

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Wolf denies sinister past

EAST BERLIN, May 21, (AP): East Germany's former spy chief denied he has "corpses in my cellar" and said his country's new democratic society must not banish former communist agents.

In an interview with a West German newspaper, former intelligence chief Markus Wolf said he would turn down a government offer to help dissolve the secret police of the ousted communist regime.

"Personally, I can live without public office," he was quoted as saying in an interview made available yesterday by the West German newspaper Bild, which planned to publish it today.

An outburst arose in both Germanys last week after East German Interior Minister Peter Michael Diestel said he wanted Wolf to serve as an adviser to the government's efforts to dissolve the former secret police.

Politicians in both Germanys denounced the move. Yesterday Social Democratic lawmakers said they would ask Parliament this week to take control of the Interior Ministry.

Wolf, 67, once considered one of the most skilled and feared intelligence chiefs in the East bloc, is wanted for arrest in West Germany.

He was in Moscow for several weeks but, in answer to a question, denied he was helping incorporate the vestiges of East Germany's intelligence network into the KGB, the Soviet spy agency.

"In Moscow I wrote a book. Nothing else," Wolf said. He worked for East German intelligence for nearly three decades.

Wolf said he was not asked to serve as a government adviser, but to assist a proposed committee of intellectuals and church leaders that would study the problems of dissolving the secret police.

"But now, after the attack against me, I would refuse to assist," he said, because he does not want to open a "fissure among the people in our young democracy."

He also said that the people who formerly worked for him should not be targets of revenge.

"They may not be banished from the community," he said. He also dismissed the comment of a West German politician that he had "blood on his hands."

"I find that laughable. There is no proof of that," he said in the interview. "I have no corpses in my cellar, no blood stains on my hands."

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Blast at New York hotel

NEW YORK, May 21, (Reuters): An incendiary device caused a minor explosion yesterday at a New York hotel shortly before Vice-President Dan Quayle arrived to attend a dinner for a Jewish organisation, police said.

No injuries were reported but the device caused minor damage, according to police.

It exploded on the first floor near a cloakroom in the Sheraton Centre Hotel, a police spokeswoman said. The dinner Quayle was to attend was held on the second floor.

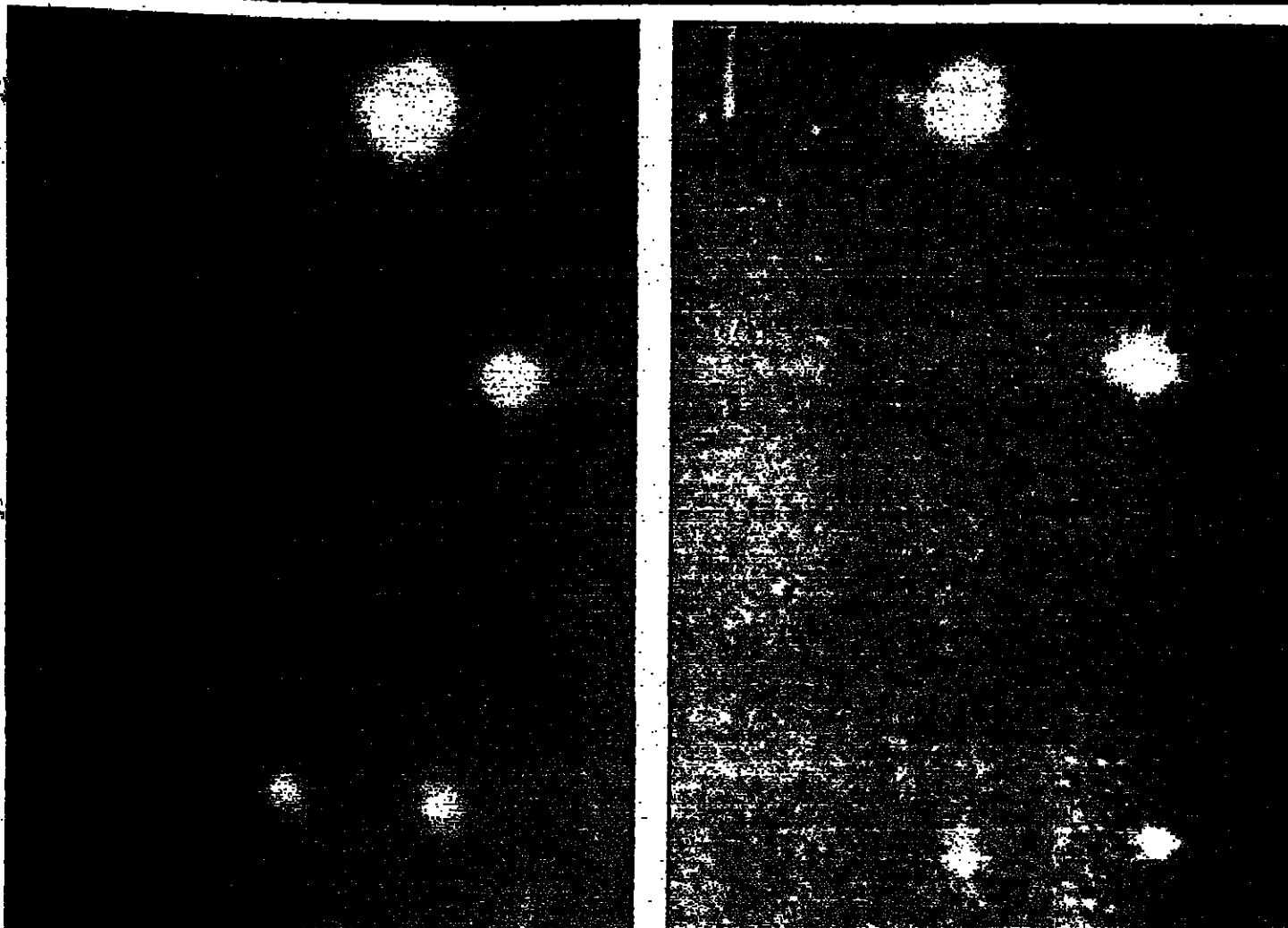
The spokeswoman said the incident did not appear to be connected to Quayle's visit. She added that no threatening calls or letters had been received and no one had claimed responsibility for planting the device.

Quayle, a former US vice president, is in New York for a dinner for the Jewish Community Relations Council, a Jewish organisation.

On the basis of a gambler's hunch, I'd say we have 65 per cent of votes in the provinces against 25 per cent for centre right candidate Mario Vargas Llosa," Fujimori told Reuters in an interview on a stand hitched to his tractor.

Fujimori, a former university rector, faces

million in aid.



First image

The first image, from the space telescope Hubble on Sunday, of a star cluster 1,280 light years away is shown (right) in comparison with an image taken by a

ground-based telescope (left). The Hubble picture has revealed a double star where the other merely showed a single bright star. (Reuters wirephotos)

'Courtesy? You got the wrong town'

New York's resident still rude

NEW YORK, May 21, (AP): Despite a new campaign that implores this city's notoriously rude residents to be more civil, they continue to hog pay phones, fight over cabs, curse drivers and bump, elbow, knee and shove each other.

"Courtesy? You got the wrong town, man," said Thomas Abato as he tossed some change in the general direction of a newspaper vendor.

"Selling people on civility" is the ultimate marketing challenge," says Ron Burkhardt, whose advertising firm is trying to do just that.

The courtesy campaign is directed by a group called New York Pride.

"The city is in trouble, in crisis, it's aching now," said co-chairman Herb Rickman.

"Government alone can't save this city."

"New York has become a rough, tough place to live in," he added, "largely because of

little incidents, little irritations" in the subway or on the street. Partly as a result, he said, tourism is down and residents and corporations are moving out.

The campaign includes:

— Television spots showing typical New York scenes — women fighting over a taxi cab, men sticking fingers in each others' chests, a bicyclist brushing past a pedestrian — as the soundtrack plays the song "Try a Little Tenderness." At the end, two men lift a fallen woman from the street.

— Radio spots in which a grumpy bank teller tells a customer to get in line. Asked "which line?" he barks, "see that short one over there? That's not it."

— Print ads featuring a large close up of a cab driver's snarling face and the message, "it's about time we changed the face on New York."

— Poster and window stickers with the

promise "courtesy shown here."

A telephone line for reports of politeness or courtesy. "You can call up and find out who's being courteous and who isn't," said Mark Simone of Wnew radio, who is focusing on the topic on his programme.

On Friday, however, New Yorkers were up to their old habits.

They snarled at dozens of subway stations along the J and M lines after a shooting on a train halted service during rush hour.

They groused at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 60th Street, where pedestrian traffic was halted briefly when a blind man hooked his cane through a woman's shopping bag, prompting some nasty language by the latter.

Spokesmen for public service agencies were asked if the civility campaign in having any effect.

Unknown double star

Hubble telescope surprises scientists

GREENBELT, Maryland, May 21, (AP): The first photo series from the Hubble space telescope was supposed to be just an engineering test, but it surprised scientists by revealing an unsuspected double star.

Hubble's inaugural photo sequence, taken from its orbit 381 miles (613 kms) above the earth, showed bright, crisp stars against a black background, with much clearer images than seen in a picture taken by a ground-based telescope of the same part of the heavens.

"Fantastic," said James Westphal, the principal scientist for the

camera used in the first photo exercise. "We are just as pleased as Punch

at this point. Our image is significantly better than we were concerned

that it might be."

Westphal said Sunday the Hubble pictures clearly show that an

image which appeared in ground-based photos to be only a single star

was, in fact, a rare binary star. The space telescope pictures showed two

overlapping points of light, instead of a single blob as seen in a picture

taken by a Chilean observatory.

"We didn't know it was a double

star," said Westphal.

Officials of the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration

had said Hubble's initial

images would be only "an engineering

test" that was being used

to meet the ceremonial

requirements for the "first light"

pictures that are traditional for a

new telescope.

But Westphal said the pictures

were worthy of serious study.

Lennard Fisk, the associate

administrator for science at

Nasa, said the quality of the pictures

proved the design and testing

of the costly telescope.

"I'm delighted," he said. "It's

two times better than we thought

it would be."

The quality of the photos

brought cheers from Nasa engineers

who have had to solve a

series of problems with the telescope

since it was launched last

month by a space shuttle.

Hubble's troubles have

included a fouled antenna, a

computer programme that

caused instruments to shut

down, another computer

programme that contained a

math error that affected pointing

accuracy, and a satellite jitter

that experts still find

troublesome.

Jean Olivier, deputy project

manager for the Hubble, said

that the first light pictures are

only a "coarse-focused" image

of what the space telescope eventually

will achieve. He said there

still are weeks remaining in an

elaborate focusing checkout of

the instruments.

"We're only about a fourth of

the way through the whole focusing

process," he said.

The planned scientific studies

will not start until the engineers

have completed the checkout,

which may take months.

Eventually, Hubble is expected

to produce pictures seven

times clearer than the images

captured on Sunday.

The first pictures, which were

processed through computers to

filter out many of the impurities,

will be analysed over the next

several days, Nasa said.

Officials plan to continue

refining Hubble's focussing

ability, which they said will eventually

be at least seven times

clearer than it was for its maiden

transmission, the first of many

thousands that are planned.

Within three to four months,

Nasa scientists expect the telescope

to begin providing information

about regions of deep space

beyond the range of Earth-based

telescopes.

The first pictures were all the

more encouraging because the

telescope has been plagued with a

series of communications and

control problems since it was

released from the space shuttle

Discovery April 25.

Cannes

2 tipped for Palm

CANNES, May 21, (Reuters): Two late entries at the Cannes film festival, a Chinese love story and a nostalgic Italian tale about an elderly man, have emerged as strong candidates for the Golden Palm award.

Film critics reckon China's 'Ju Dou' (Secret Love, Hidden Faces) and Giuseppe Tornatore's 'Stand Tutti Bene' (Everybody's Fine) stand a good chance when the 10-member jury announces its decisions late tonight.

Jury President Bernardo Bertolucci, whose own 'The Last Emperor' was filmed in China in the days before the Tiananmen Square crackdown, may well have a soft spot for 'Ju Dou,' the only Chinese offering among the 18 final candidates.

'Ju Dou,' screened on Sunday, is the story of an adulterous love between an unhappily married wife and her adopted nephew, set in a dye factory in the Chinese countryside.

Director Zhang Yimou shows a village society where the strict feudal customs suffocate spontaneous emotion. Breaking the social code, the lovers are inevitably condemned to destruction.

Tornatore's 'Stanno Tutti Bene' ranks alongside his Oscar-winning 'Cinema Paradiso' in quality and has the same mood of wistful nostalgia.

Veteran actor Marcello Mastroianni stars as a Sicilian paterfamilias who foolishly decides to spring surprise visits on the members of his family.

Racial crimes rise in US

NEW YORK, May 21, (Reuters): Attorney-General Richard Thornburgh and leading civil rights officials said yesterday racial crimes were rising in the United States and pointed to poor economic conditions as a main reason for increasing tension.

In a sign of renewed soul-searching among Americans about race relations, set off by a week of racial incidents in New York, the country's main television current affairs programmes yesterday focused on the issue.

The New York incidents were sparked by verdicts in trials which found one white teenager guilty and another not guilty of murdering a black teenager.

The victim had gone into a white working-class district of Brooklyn to help a friend choose a used car.

Without giving figures, Thornburgh said the FBI was investigating twice its normal number of racial crimes.

"We have twice as many FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) investigations going forward. We are prosecuting a record number of persons who engage in these acts," he told ABC television.

Thornburgh said President George Bush believed a key way to stamp out racial conflict was to create a better quality of life for people.

Since 1939 the proportion of blacks living in poverty out of the black population has been two or three times that of the white poor to the white population.

Some whites believe that government action in recent years to raise the standard of living of blacks has given minorities an unfair advantage in getting jobs and university places.

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), said he believed a majority of white Americans were "exhibiting racism in a way that we haven't had in a long time, on college campuses through graffiti, through all kinds of actions."

He told CBS television that Bush had just signed into law a hate crimes statistics bill so that accurate information could be gathered.

New York Mayor David Dinkins, the first black to hold this position and a veteran civil rights activist, told ABC it was unrealistic for Americans to expect racial hostility to disappear simply because African-Americans like him were winning political offices.

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Reds planned more killings

Commander meets Cory

ANGELES, Philippines, May 21, (AP): Communist rebels had planned to assassinate senior US military officers near Clark Air Base on the eve of talks on the future of the US military bases in the Philippines, a military official said today.

Li Col Julius Yarcia, chief of the Angeles metropolitan district command, said the plan was scrapped after the military's quick response to the killing of two US airmen near the base on May 13, a day before the talks began in Manila.

Yarcia said the killing of airmen John H. Raven and James C. Green outside a hotel near the base, 80 kms (50 miles) north of Manila, was part of the plan of the communist New People's Army to disrupt the talks.

He said rebel liquidation teams were in place in five other areas around the base, but were "dispersed" when the military

immediately began searching suspected guerrilla hideouts for the killers of the two servicemen.

A regional commander said troops captured three suspected NPA members, including one believed to have been involved in the two killings.

"It was supposedly the biggest NPA operation this year in Angeles city, bigger than the 1987 killings (also in Angeles)," Yarcia said.

NPA "political assassination teams" had targeted "several ranking US military officers," Yarcia said. He declined to identify

the US officers named in documents obtained by military spies who infiltrated rebel ranks.

In 1987, two US servicemen, another American and a Filipino citizen of American ancestry were killed by the rebels in simultaneous attacks outside the base.

The bases talks ended last Friday. US and Philippine officials agreed to discuss a new bases treaty to replace the current agreement expiring in September 1991.

On Saturday, the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines condemned the decision to negotiate a new treaty as a "sellout of the national sovereignty."

Meanwhile, Adm. Huntington Hardisty, commander of US Pacific forces, met today with President Corason Aquino and expressed optimism over the future of US military bases.

"I think our government feels very comfortable with the recent exploratory talks," Hardisty said after a call on Aquino one day before Tuesday's annual meeting of the mutual defence board. "I think both (sides) agreed that our future depends on a new relationship, a new strategic relationship. I think that goes well for the future of both our countries."

The one-day meeting of the mutual defence board reviews security relations and US military assistance programmes. A statement is expected at the close of the meeting.

130 dead or missing in Jakarta

Passenger ship sinks

JAKARTA, May 21, (AP): A passenger ship has sunk off Indonesia, leaving more than 130 people dead or missing, the official Antara news agency reported today.

The agency said 56 bodies had been recovered from the sea since the ship Macoli took on water and sank last night in bad weather and high waves off east Kalimantan, some 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

A search for the others was continuing, it added. It said the ship, with a capacity of 110, was carrying at least 133 people from Nunukan to Tarakan, both in east Kalimantan province.

Officials could not immediately be reached for comment. Antara said tugboats owned by oil companies operating in the area had taken the bodies on board for shipment to Tarakan or Nunukan.

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Xu Jia Tun, ex-director of the Xing Hua news agency in Hong Kong, is shown in this undated snapshot taken in San Diego, California. It was announced on Sunday that Xu, who had been missing from China since early May, has taken temporary refuge in southern California with Master Hsing Yun, who runs the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights, California. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chinese official feared probe

HONG KONG, May 21, (UPI): China's former top official in Hong Kong, currently in the United States, fled there as a refugee after learning of a Chinese government investigation of his political conduct and financial dealings, Chinese and Western sources said today.

The sources confirmed the US government's public statements that Xu Jiatun, the former director of the official Chinese news agency's Hong Kong branch, had not defected, but said his abrupt and mysterious departure earlier this month was prompted by fears of what faced him in Beijing.

"Someone called Xu from the mainland and tipped him he was about to be ordered back to Beijing," one source said. "He thought he was in trouble."

Xu, 74, served for nearly seven years as head of the Xinhua news agency's Hong Kong office, which acts as Beijing's unofficial consulate to the British colony and represents the Chinese foreign ministry. As such, he was China's top representative in Hong Kong until his retirement in February.

Ironically, he was also Beijing's chief voice of reassurance to the colony's nearly 6 million people over worries about their future after Britain returns sovereignty to China in 1997.

"It took a couple of days for this to sink in," said a senior official of the British Hong Kong government. But it has galvanized people. It's all people are talking about.

The Chinese government has said only that Xu went to the United States for "travel and rest." But a Chinese source said an internal government document had characterized Xu's departure as "somewhere between an unauthorized trip and a defection."

In Washington, First Lady Barbara Bush placed a candle in every window of the White House that faces Pennsylvania Avenue and lit them at dusk, when a memorial service was held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, a spokeswoman said.

About 15 members of the militant Aids advocacy group Act-Up held a counterdemonstration to protest alleged "inactivity" of the Bush administration on research and drug therapy. They lit candles but turned their backs on the 200 other vigil-holders, shouting, "money for Aids."

Romania elections flawed: observers

Iliescu wins 89pc majority

BUCHAREST, May 21, (Agencies): International observers said today that Romania's elections, which returned the ruling National Salvation Front to power by huge majorities, were flawed but they had not observed systematic electoral fraud.

A 60-strong US and British-led delegation said the Front, a catch-all centre-left grouping which assumed power amid chaos

after last December's bloody revolution, had not established its democratic credentials through the elections.

"The process was flawed but the very fact that an election has taken place is itself a remarkable achievement which none of us would have believed possible a year ago," they said in a statement.

First free polls in 53 years

Romanians delighted

BUCHAREST, May 21, (AP): For 86-year-old Simon Feller, yesterday's election was a chance to fulfill a secret wish and vote in a free election for the first time in 53 years.

For 21-year-old Julius Cristea, it was a chance to cast a ballot for Romania to become a democratic country and blot out 44 years of communist rule.

For young and old, the most vivid election memories were the rubber-stamp affairs held every four years by communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Yesterday's vote was a chance to make a choice.

"I never thought I could live this long," said Stefan Ionescu, a 75-year-old retired plumber. He and others old enough to remember voting in Romania's last free multi-party election in 1937 thought yesterday's poll was free.

"The Romanians always used to take elections very lightly," said an 85-year-old who gave his name only as Demetru.

"Now after nearly half a century of communism, people take them seriously. The only merit of communism is that it made people long for freedom," he said.

He remembered one way to cheat in the 1930s was fraudulently increasing the voting roll by adding the names of the dead and people ineligible to vote.

"Compared to 1937, the elections of today are much better because no people are beating each other," said Ionescu after voting at a Bucharest school. "People are not fighting to get power."

Stefan Vangelie, 85, recalled that when voters left the booth in 1937, a chalk line was drawn on their backs "and then they punched you because you

voted for the opposition."

Ion Moraru, 73, a retired auto mechanic, said he voted in past years because "if you didn't, they put you out of your job."

In the western city of Timisoara, cradle of December's revolution that toppled Ceausescu, Vasile Aurel, a 78-year-old retired civil engineer, was elated as he waited on line outside a polling station.

"Until December, I was convinced that neither I nor my children would ever take part in free elections," said Aurel, who in 1937 voted for the National Peasants Party. Yesterday, he voted for the National Liberal Party.

The two traditional parties are fielding candidates for president and the two-chamber Parliament, but in opinion polls trailed the National Salvation Front which has run the country since the revolution.

"I know the National Salvation Front will probably win but what is important now is to have an opposition in Parliament strong enough to protect the gains of democracy," he said.

Feller, a retired Ministry of Health official, said that when the communists came to power in 1946, "I just folded my ballot in four and left."

"I always hoped to vote in a fair election," he said. "I hope the election will bring liberty, democracy and the reduction of tension," he said.

Younger men voting for the first time ever betrayed equal elation and desire for democracy. "Freedom makes my heart free," said a 27-year-old engineering student who identified himself only as Sorin. "I am very happy to give my vote in liberty."

... under Ceausescu, it was compulsory to vote because that was the law. Now, it is our option."

The observers were delivering their verdict on opposition charges that yesterday's polls for a president and two-chamber Parliament were as fraudulent as those held under deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

According to early projections by a West German polling institute, Romanians opted overwhelmingly in their first free elections for more than 50 years for the interim head of state, Front leader Ion Iliescu, as president.

Iliescu, a 60-year-old onetime senior Communist Party official sidelined by Ceausescu for dissent, won a thumping 89 per cent majority in a contest with two other candidates, projections by the respected Infas institute showed.

The Front also took control of both houses of Parliament with a two-thirds majority.

The first task of the new 387-seat assembly and 119-member senate will be drafting a constitution to replace one under which Ceausescu ruled at the head of the Communist Party for nearly 25 years until he was toppled on December 22 in Eastern Europe's bloodiest revolution.

A high proportion of the 16 million voters — one official said 98 per cent — cast their ballots in the region's third free poll this year in the aftermath of the ouster of communist systems.

The delegation said: "Our teams did note instances of irregularities, but we did not observe systematic electoral fraud. Isolated incidents of ballot box stuffing have been reported, as have incidents in which adequate physical control of the ballots was not maintained."

"The democratic credentials of the National Salvation Front have not been fully established by this election," the delegation added.

US Senator Joe Lieberman, leader of the delegation, told a news conference it was difficult to say if the elections had been free and fair.

"I think the important tone to stress is that it is a first step and that we have to view what happened here yesterday in the context of what preceded it," Lieberman said.

Former US Senator Harrison Schmitt displayed a ballot paper already stamped in favour of the Front when the voter received it. British parliamentarian Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the delegation would be much more critical if the next elections due in Romania — after a two-year transition period for the Parliament and president elected yesterday — were held under the same conditions.

An ethnic Hungarian political party, forecast to get six per cent of the vote in Romania's elections, said today it would work with other opposition groups to force the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) to settle the country's ethnic problems.



Roman announces late May 20 that Iliescu has won the election with 89 per cent of the votes. (Reuter wirephoto)



Bulgarians rally

About 25,000 Bulgarians waving blue opposition flags and balloons massed in central Sofia on Sunday to back a united front against the ruling Socialist Party in free elections next month.

Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) leader Zhelju Zhelev told the crowd outside the Alexander Nevsky cathedral that foreign politicians had promised support for the union, the largest opposition alliance contesting the polls.

"Europe and the USA are with the UDF" and "a vote for the Communist Party is a crime and madness," read banners held by the crowd, which gathered to welcome

back opposition leaders from a tour of Paris, London, Washington, Warsaw and Prague.

Bulgaria's election on June 10 and 17, the first free polls in more than four decades, will complete a series in former communist-ruled Eastern Europe. More than 40 parties and groupings have registered to participate.

"Politicians abroad were impressed by the unity of our opposition," Zhelev said. "We are offering, not like the communists a social utopia, but a democracy, something that has brought other people to prosperity and individual freedom." (Reuter wirephoto)

Penalise police, students demand Kwangju remains tense

KWANGJU, May 21, (AP): Radical students demanded today that police be held responsible for the death of a student who was killed while jumping from a train to join violent protests marking the anniversary of a 1980 civil uprising.

Radicals said 21-year-old Shin Jung-Ho would be buried as a martyr and patriot Wednesday in the southern provincial city of Kwangju, which has been hit by three days of violent anti-government, anti-US protests. About 100 militant students armed with metal pipes guarded the hospital morgue where Shin's body was kept.

Meanwhile, Choi In-Kee, the mayor of Kwangju, warned that "violence will no longer be tolerated."

Shin was one of an estimated 15,000 students trying to avoid police roadblocks to reach Kwangju for rallies marking the 10th anniversary of the civil uprising in Kwangju. The military suppressed that pro-democracy uprising, killing at least 200 people in one of the bloodiest civil disturbances in modern Korean history.

The radical National Council of Student Representatives said 161 member colleges and universities planned to send mourners to funeral services Wednesday at Kwangju's Chonnam University and to a roadside rite in front of the provincial government building.

Several thousand riot police deployed in and around the provincial building since violent protests erupted May 18 were mostly out of sight today, apparently to avoid antagonising radicals and dissidents.

Radical student leader Lee Ki-Hon told a news conference today the ruling Democratic Liberal Party was a "violent group" and he called on students to inherit the spirit of our dead patriot.

Lee demanded police officials be held accountable for Shin's death and said those responsible should resign. Radicals claim that if roadblocks had not been in place, Shin would not have had to jump from the train.

On Sunday, violence erupted for a third day when some 10,000 protesters hurling rocks and shouting "down with (President) Roh Tae-Woo" battled riot police in downtown streets. Protesters tore up sidewalks for weapons and built bonfires at a dozen intersections to light firebombs.

Police fired 40 warning rounds from M-16 automatic rifles to stop about 50 protesters from attacking a police station with firebombs.

The Kookmin-ilbo newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying police had fired 4,000 tear-gas shells and picked up 60 sons of rocks and the remains of 2,300 firebombs thrown by protesters after Sunday's riot.

Seoul's Dong-A Ilbo newspaper said 84 police and more than 200 students and non-students were injured.

The newspaper said 6,342 people had been arrested nationwide since May 18, most of them in Kwangju. Of the total, it said 15 had been formally charged with instigating unrest, 33 sent before a summary court judge, and 130 others remain under investigation. The rest were released with warnings, it said.

Row over Japanese apology continues

SEOUL, May 21, (AP): South Korea and Japan are still wrangling over the wording of an apology the Seoul government wants Japanese Emperor Akihito to make later this week, a news report said today.

South Korea is demanding that Japan apologise for its treatment of Korean citizens during 35 years of colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

President Roh Tae-Woo is scheduled to visit Tokyo from Thursday through Saturday, and Japan is expected to make an apology of some sort to help improve relations between the two countries.

Bands of elderly Koreans have been staging daily protests in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul demanding that Roh cancel his trip until an apology is forthcoming.

"Akihito, apologise," they chant.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, said today the draft of the emperor's apology submitted to Seoul is still unacceptable to government officials.

It said the Japanese government uses the words "we" and "the two countries" while the South Korean government is demanding a clear definition of Japan as the offender and Korea as the victim.

Yonhap quoted a high-ranking South Korean official as saying the reported draft falls short of Korean expectations. But the official said it shows "considerable progress" from remarks by Akihito's late father, Emperor Hirohito, during then-President Chun Doo-Hwan's visit to Tokyo in 1984.

Japan may turn away China ship

TOKYO, May 21, (UPI): A top government spokesman said today Japan may reject a request to dock from the "goddess of democracy," the ship French activists had hoped to use to broadcast pro-democracy radio programmes to China.

The organisers of the floating radio station announced Friday they were heading for Japan where they were hoping to dock and get a transmitter needed to broadcast to China.

Taiwan frees dissident

Hails 'new era of democracy'

TAIPEI, May 21, (Reuters): Taiwan's most famous dissident, freed today by order of President Lee Teng-Hui after a decade in jail on sedition charges, welcomed what he called "a new era of democracy" on the island.

Shin Ming-Teh, sentenced to life in prison by martial law courts in 1980, told a news conference on his first day of freedom he needed to study the changes that have swept the island since he was locked up.

"This marks the beginning of a new era of democracy for Taiwan," Shih said. "I will continue to work with my colleagues in the democratic movement."

The 50-year-old Shih, dubbed "Taiwan's Mandela" by the local press, has served a total of 25 years on different charges of plotting against the Nationalist government and advocating Taiwan's political independence.

He was freed with nine other political prisoners as part of a clemency order signed by Lee to mark the president's inauguration to a new term yesterday.

Shih was the last to be released of a number of opposition activists who were jailed for their roles in anti-government riots.

Smiling broadly but looking frail, Shih spoke briefly at the news conference and said he now felt sympathy for the island's middle class.

"I know about how crazy the stock market is and how crazy land prices are. The middle class has not been taken care of very well," he said.

He ended his talk with plea to the government to allow his American-born wife to return to Taiwan.

"Everyone needs a real home. I hope they will let my wife return

as soon as possible," Shih said.

Today's news conference was attended by many of the political activists who have helped transform Taiwan's opposition movement from an underground group to a legal political party, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).

"Ten years ago we faced military courts. Now we face reporters. The past ten years have brought many changes," said Chang Chun-Hong, secretary-general of the DPP and himself a former political prisoner.

Released with Shih was Hsu Hsin-Liang, a charismatic former county magistrate who fled Taiwan for the United States after the Kaohsiung riots. He was captured trying to sneak back to the island last September and sentenced to 10 years in jail in December.

Beijing freshmen boast military skills, coy on political outlook

BEIJING, May 21, (AP): Members of Beijing University's freshmen class, ordered to undergo a year of military training, boasted yesterday of the new skills they have acquired, including shooting guns, but were coy about their political outlook.

One-third of Beijing University's freshmen class of more than 700 were on campus this weekend to perform military manoeuvres at the opening ceremony of a collegiate track and field competition. For many, it was their first visit to the school.

Last year, as part of the crackdown on dissent following the massive pro-democracy protests in the spring, the freshmen class was ordered to undergo a year of military training and political education before starting regular courses.

Since the fall, the approximately 700 students

have been on an army base in Shijiazhuang, about 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of Beijing. Repeated requests by reporters to visit the students at the base have been rejected.

Beijing University historically has been at the forefront of modern China's political trends, and its students were among the leaders of the seven-week pro-democracy movement, which ended last June 3-4 when troops shot their way into Beijing, killing hundreds, and possibly thousands, of people.

Tonight, their last night on campus, small clusters of students in army uniforms — some standing tall and proud, others looking self-conscious — gathered outside their dormitory building talking to curious upperclassmen.

"Of course, it was hard getting used to military

training at first — but that's just like anything new," said an 18-year-old girl.

A student from southern China recalled that he had a hard time adjusting to the cold weather and the fact that every minute of the day — from morning call at 6 am until lights out at 10 pm — was controlled.

"I was criticised for everything at the start — not lining up my shoes just so and all sorts of little things that I did wrong without meaning to," he said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity.

The students refrained from saying anything negative about their experiences.

"We were concerned at first that this would hurt our studies, but it really hasn't been a wasted year."

It's been a valuable experience," said the girl. Her classmate, though, was less enthusiastic. "It was worth it because that's what it took to come to Beijing University," he said. The school is China's most prestigious liberal arts college.

In January, members of their class wrote a letter to Education Minister Li Tieying saying, "Our military training certainly is not the 'punishment' others have said. Rather, it indeed shows the preferential treatment ... the solicitude and loving care given to our generation of college students."

The students said they have learned things they otherwise would not have had the chance to. "After this, I think I could endure anything. In high school, we were pampered students. Now we've learned to do everything ourselves," the boy said.



Women protest

Women demonstrate outside a courthouse in Dhaka yesterday demanding 'harsh punishment' for young Bangladeshi businessman Munir Hossain who killed his wife.

save his illicit love. The court later sentenced Hossain and his elderly fiancée both to death by hanging. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kashmir

(Continued from Page 1)

were, "I am dying, but you fight for the freedom of Kashmir."

After his death, Indian security forces imposed a curfew on Srinagar. But tens of thousands of mourners defied the curfew and streamed to the Sura Hospital. They removed Farooq's body and began a procession that was planned to march to his office 10 kilometres (six miles) away.

Witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, said members of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force opened fire on the procession when it had covered eight kilometres (five miles).

The witnesses contended the firing was unprovoked and the police gave no warning before they started shooting. Farooq's coffin was hit by bullets and the body fell out, said the witnesses. Some of the mourners put the body, with fresh bullet wounds, back into the coffin and ran with it into the neighbourhood's narrow alleys, and reached his office safely, they said.

One of the coffin bearers was shot in the leg, and the leg had to be amputated, doctors at Sura Hospital said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

After the shootings, thousands of people converged on the cleric's office at Rajouri Kadal to see Farooq's body. Farooq's aides said the funeral date has not been decided yet.

Members of Farooq's family, his followers and thousands of protesters blamed the slaying on Jammu and Kashmir state Governor Jagmohan, who has been employing tens of thousands of troops and police and using harsh measures to try to quell the anti-Indian uprising.

"You go and tell Jagmohan to relax now. He has achieved what he wanted," 15-year-old Naila Farooq, the priest's daughter, cried to journalists outside her father's home.

Police said three men asking to see the cleric were admitted to his residential compound and escorted by Farooq's servant to his office. Police said the servant left and about one minute later, the three pulled out pistols, fired at the cleric and fled.

"They came to his office at about 11.15 am and shot him from point-blank range and ran away immediately," said a sobbing Umar Farooq, the priest's son.

Amanullah Khan, leader of the militant Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front fighting for independence accused the Indian

Fears loom

Kashmir conflict

NEW DELHI, May 21, (Reuters): Weak leadership and fear of high casualties are holding India and Pakistan back from another war over disputed Kashmir, defence analysts and diplomats say.

The neighbours have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. Both say they do not want a fourth. "War solves nothing," said a senior Indian official.

But there are widespread fears that India's problems in its part of Kashmir, where more than 300 people have been killed this year in a secessionist uprising, may drive it to attack the one-third of the Himalayan region controlled by Pakistan.

Washington is so worried it dispatched deputy National Security advisor Robert Gates to the two capitals.

Delhi says Islamabad arms and trains militants in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and in Punjab, where a Sikh secessionist war is nearly a decade old. Pakistan denies the charges.

Western diplomats say each side has moved at least four divisions, including armour, to the border areas. They said no one believes a war could be limited to Kashmir.

But the analyst said a decision to go to war — unlike previous occasions when eagerness was obvious in a considerable stronger India — would be a huge and painful one this time.

"The casualties will be colossal this time, because both sides have a much larger number of lethal weapons in their inventories than before," said Group Captain Mohinder Paul of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

"This means it will be a long drawn out war. It will also mean civilian casualties unlike in the past when the two countries kept away from civilian targets," Paul said.

"This time, Pakistan can hit Delhi and India can hit Islamabad. That's never been true before and that's a strong deterrent," a Western diplomat said.

The analysts said they estimated 1.5 million troops would be involved in a fourth war, backed by advanced US and Soviet-made tanks and aircraft. They said they believed it would stop short of nuclear conflict. Islamabad and New Delhi have accused each other of developing nuclear weapons. Each denies it.

In a conventional war, the Indian Army would have to attack troops in well fortified positions from Himalayan Kashmir down to the plains of Punjab and Rajasthan.

The Indian Air Force has 742 combat planes spearheaded by the advanced French-made Mirage 2000s and the Soviet Mig-29s. Pakistan has 341 aircraft, including 30 advanced US F-16s and 63 Mirage III/Vs. At sea, India has an even greater advantage.

But on the ground, things are more even. India has 1.36 million regular troops against Pakistan's 520,000 and nearly twice as many tanks. However, they are more evenly matched at the border with a 10 to 7.5 ratio in Delhi's favour, and the militants in Kashmir and Punjab add a new factor, Indian officials said.

"This time, the Indian Army will be looking behind its back at the Sikh extremists, while facing better tanks and an air force with improved firepower," one said.

Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Khaddafi gave Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto a red carpet welcome today as she arrived in Tripoli on the seventh leg of a Middle East tour.

Benazir, who has already visited Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, North Yemen and Egypt, was greeted by a 19-gun salute at Tripoli airport and quickly went into a meeting with Khaddafi.

"The main subject that came under discussion was Kashmir," said a Pakistani spokesman.

Foreign Ministry last Thursday.

Khan fled to the Netherlands after the United States revoked his visa last month at India's request. New Delhi later tried to extradite him.

A Bangladesh Foreign Ministry official said Dhaka's policy was to stay out of all controversies among other south Asian countries. But he did not say if Khan's visa would be refused.

"It is premature for us to say what we are going to do because we haven't had any visa requests from him yet," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

India hopes that you will not permit this man to enter Bangladesh," the Indian government said in a letter to the Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 21, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad indicated for the first time yesterday that he would seek office again in elections due next year.

Opposition parties have repeatedly demanded that Ershad, who came to power in a bloodless coup in 1982, should step down before the polls.

Rockets used in Hyderabad

Experts determine make, source of weapons

ISLAMABAD, May 21, (Kuna): The week-long ethnic violence in the southeast city of Hyderabad, which left more than 35 persons dead and over 100 wounded, subsided today as troops patrolled its roads and streets for the second day running.

Police today were carrying out raids in the second principal city of troubled Sind province to apprehend suspects and seize arms and ammunition which lately has been used in an unprecedented manner.

A new and alarming aspect of the violence in Hyderabad during the week has been the use of rockets. Nowhere in Pakistan, including the most troubled city of Karachi, has the weapon of rocket been used so far.

Weapon experts were deployed by the administration of Hyderabad, the city where violence erupts off-and-on despite strict security measures, to determine the make and

the sources of supply of rockets, whether these were Pakistani made or imported and through which route these were smuggled into Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, a leading daily has castigated the People's Party's government in Sind province for its ineptitude to curb violence in Hyderabad, about 100 miles north-east of Karachi.

In an editorial captioned "Qiyamat sughra in Hyderabad" (mini doomsday in Hyderabad) the mass circulation Urdu newspaper Jang said: "For the last few days mini doomsday is in evidence in and around Hyderabad in the form of lawlessness, looting, bloodshed and terrorism, and this is something of which there is no parallel in the history of entire Pakistan."

"This time violence and terrorism have

assumed such disconcerting proportions that despite imposition of curfew people and their properties are under constant attack.

For the last two days, the newspaper went on, rockets are raining on the city killing and wounding innocent people and destroying houses and shops. Snipers are indiscriminately opening fire. Several places have been the targets of bomb blasts. Even the ambulances were set on fire. Thousands of people blocked for nine hours the national highway linking Karachi with the hinterland of Pakistan. Residential colonies are being attacked by terrorists.

Instances have come to light where the terrorists used loudspeakers to guide accomplices where to attack. Jang said, adding that at certain places police constables refused to obey the orders of their officers to control acts of terrorism.

US envoy urges to talk not fight

India insists Islamabad must halt its support of 'terrorism'

NEW DELHI, May 21, (Agencies): A US diplomatic mission to encourage an Indo-Pakistan dialogue on reducing the threat of war over disputed Kashmir appeared to founder today, with New Delhi reiterating that Islamabad must first halt its support of "terrorism and subversion."

The American initiative was led by special presidential envoy Robert Gates, the deputy US national security adviser, and also included US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs John Kelly and Dr Richard Haass, the special adviser to President Bush on Near East and South Asian affairs.

A statement released by the US embassy also said Washington was "not seeking a role of mediator."

"Rather, the US, as a friend of both India and Pakistan, hopes to contribute to a reduction of tensions," the statement said.

Gates presented Singh with a letter from President Bush, the contents of which were not disclosed, officials said.

The US embassy said the trio departed for Washington late this afternoon.

A US statement said the American team was sent to determine actions Washington could take to soothe tensions that arose between New Delhi and Islamabad after the eruption in mid-January of a popular uprising for independence on India's side of predominantly Muslim Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting the insurrection, in which more than 300 people have died, and arming and training Muslim militants who are guiding the movement. It claims Islamabad is trying to realize its claim to all of Kashmir, which has remained divided between the neighbouring rivals since they fought their first war in 1948.

Pakistan rejects the charges, but has openly called for Kashmir self-determination and is raising funds for the cause.

The US statement said that in his meeting with Singh, Gates "reiterated the president's call that both sides take steps to reduce military confrontation and to restore the calm essential to work out all their differences through dialogue and negotiations."

But, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Singh repeated India's position that no dialogue is possible until Pakistan halts its alleged support for outlawed Kashmiri separatist groups and Sikh militants fighting for independence in Punjab.

"In responding to the special envoy, the prime minister reiterated India's concerns regarding Pakistan's continuing support to terrorism and subversion in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

"These activities are the root cause of the present situation and their elimination is essential for restoring confidence and thereby de-escalating the present situation," said the spokesman.

Both statements quoted Gates as saying that the United States, which has built strong ties with India in recent years despite being Pakistan's main economic and weapons provider, was not seeking a role as mediator.

"Rather, the United States as a friend of both India and Pakistan, hopes to contribute to a reduction in tensions," the American embassy statement said.

Benazir allies claim victory

MUZZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, May 21, (AP): A pro-independence party aligned with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto declared victory in a state legislative election today and promised to supply arms for a Muslim rebellion in Indian-held Kashmir.

No official results had been announced from the voting in the Pakistan-controlled area of Kashmir, but the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation League declared it had won. The first results were expected to be announced late tonight.

The Liberation League is allied with Benazir's Pakistan People's Party. Before the election, political analysts said Benazir's forces had a chance of winning.

Khwaja Farooq Ahmed, the Liberation League's general secretary, said in declaring victory that the group would create a special fund to provide weapons and training for the rebels across the border in the Indian-held area of Kashmir.

"We will not hesitate. We are ready for war with India," Ahmed said as supporters lifted him on their shoulders.

Others shouting "Long live Bhutto, Long live Ahmed" fired Kalashnikov rifles into the air. Dozens of Pakistani soldiers watched from nearby jeeps mounted with machine-guns.

Analysts say that a victory in today's election of representatives to the Azad (free) Kashmir state assembly would either force the prime minister to deliver weapons and money to the rebels or face violent protests from the fundamentalists.

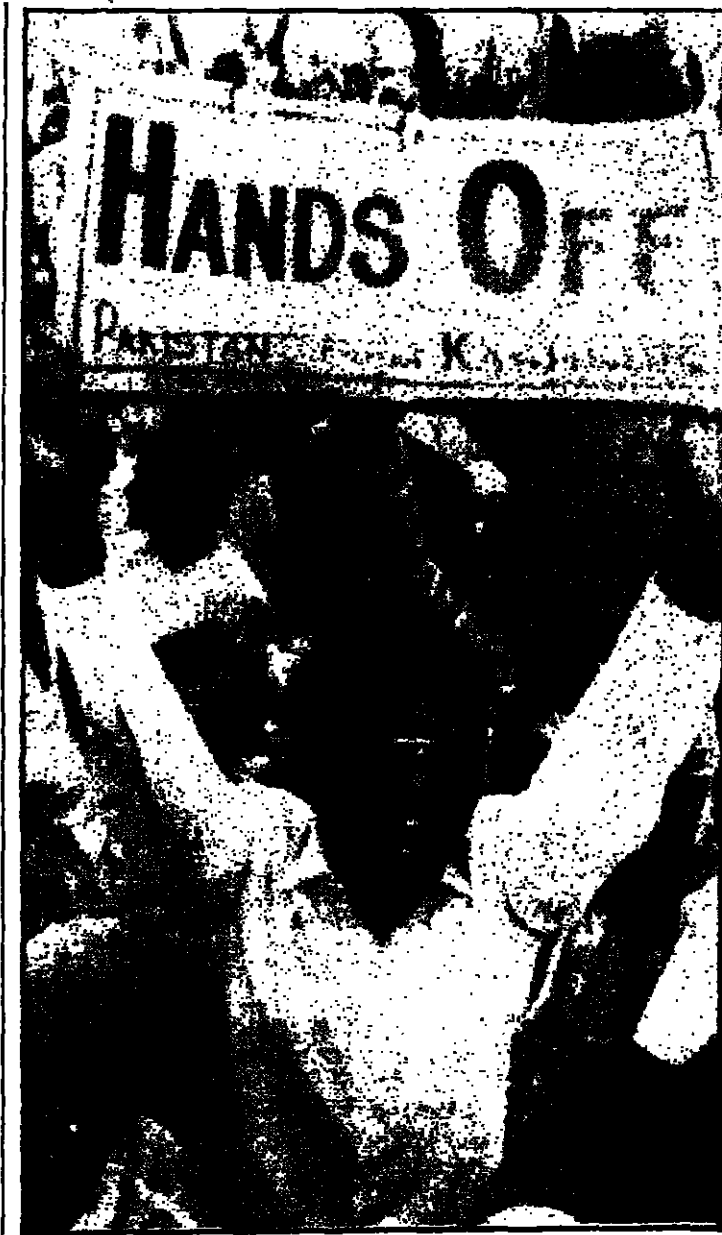
More than 18,000 paramilitary troops, police and rangers from Punjab, the North West Frontier and Baluchistan provinces were deployed in Pakistan-held Kashmir to help keep order during the balloting.

Three people were killed in the town of Mirpur in shootouts between rival parties. Officials said they feared there would be widespread violence if the incumbent all Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference was unseated by Pakistan People's Party and its allies.

The Muslim Conference's leader said the party would arm the Kashmiri rebels if it were returned to power.

Turnout was heavy among the 1.3 million eligible voters. Most of the 2,000 polling stations reported 70 per cent turnout as anxious voters pushed and shoved to check their candidate's symbols on the ballots.

Election officials said 238 candidates, most running as independents, were vying for 39 seats in the state assembly. Voting was postponed in one constituency after a candidate was killed in an auto accident.



An anti-Pakistan rally in New Delhi. 100,000 people took part in the rally to protest against the alleged involvement of Pakistan in Kashmir. (Reuter wirephoto)

V.P. Singh, Devi Lal head for showdown

Threat to axe Haryana govt

NEW DELHI, May 21, (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh forced a showdown today with his powerful Deputy Premier Devi Lal by threatening to dismiss a state government headed by Lal's son.

Singh had earlier announced that a judicial inquiry would investigate the killing last week of Amir Singh, an independent candidate from the city of Meham for the Haryana state assembly.

Lal's son, Om Prakash Chautala, who was also a candidate, is blamed by his opponents for ordering the killing to force a postponement of the election scheduled for May 26, which he was given little chance of winning.

The Meham by-election was first scheduled to be held in February but that, too, was postponed because of campaign violence.

Singh told Parliament he would decide by Tuesday

whether to dismiss the Haryana state government and bring the state under direct rule from Delhi.

Lal, picking up the challenge, told reporters after Singh's statement he was strongly opposed.

The issue finally brings Singh face to face with his deputy and may settle once and for all who is the real boss in Dal Party, the main faction in the ruling National Front alliance, said one analyst.

Lal's defence of his controversial son has given Rajiv Ghandi's Congress Party an opportunity to regain public support after last November's general election defeat.

Political analysts said the confrontation with Lal weakens Singh's hold on a party propped up in Parliament by two groups which detest each other: the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party and communists.

Clamour on for Chautala to resign

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 21: Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala is fast becoming a major embarrassment to the Janata Dal, the main constituent of India's ruling National Front, and to Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government.

After Thursday's violence, in which an independent candidate was killed in Meham, the constituency from which Chautala is seeking election to the Haryana assembly, there has been a clamour for his resignation.

The election commission has now countermanded the election, the second time it has done so in three months. On February 27, when the by-election was first held, and on February 28, when repolling was held in some booths, there was large scale violence and rigging, forcing the commission to order fresh elections in an unprecedented decision.

Apart from the fact that Chautala is the official Janata Dal candidate for the by-election, he also happens to be Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal's eldest son. When Devi Lal was appointed deputy prime minister, Chautala was chosen to succeed him as Haryana chief minister. He was not a member of the state assembly then and has to be elected before June 2 to continue as chief minister. He is contesting the May 26 by-elections from a second constituency.

On Saturday, a long time supporter of the Janata Dal and Magsaysay award winner Lakshmi Chand Jain quit in disgust as member of India's planning commission on the Meham issue. The resignation is bound to exert some pressure on the Janata Dal to take an early decision on the matter.

Jain 65, made it clear he would reconsider his decision only if Chautala stepped down or if the party leadership directed him to do so.

Another planning commission member and well known political activist Rajni Kothari also called for Chautala's resignation so as to ensure an objective investigation into Thursday's murder.

Both Jain and Kothari do not hold Chautala responsible for what happened on Thursday but, like many others, feel he should have owned up moral responsibility.

Jain told a hastily summoned press conference in his office that the Meham incidents had caused insufferable damage to the electoral system.

It must be pointed out here that Jain had campaigned actively against former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in his Lok Sabha constituency of Amethi last November and was in the forefront of the effort to highlight the alleged malpractices that took place there on polling day.

Jain's view now is that people like him who had taken a strong stand against electoral irregularities in Amethi could not remain silent when similar or worse things happen in Meham, especially when a party committed to moral values in politics is in power. The resignation is bound to have some effect on several other prominent Dal leaders who have been maintaining silence on the issue finding it difficult to choose between moral compulsions and political expediency.

After the February incidents, when Meham first hit the headlines, a Janata Dal committee had recommended that Chautala be replaced, some think that Devi Lal was in no mood to take it lying down. He flexed his muscles with acts like the resignation drama and the action against Industry Minister Ajit Singh. Devi Lal has now increased his hold on the party. With his nominee S. R. Bommai elected as interim president.

There are some indications, of course, that the political affairs committee of the party would meet soon and decide on a course of action. Many senior members of the committee feel that sacking Chautala was the only way to salvage the party's prestige, which has taken a severe beating.

The opposition Congress has been quick to seize the issue and extract the maximum mileage out of it, in sharp contrast to the February incidents when it chose to be restrained, leading to speculation of some understanding between it and Devi Lal.

In Parliament last week, the Congress mounted an offensive on the issue in both houses. In Rajya Sabha, it pressed for division on a motion seeking suspension of question hour to discuss the incident.

On Friday, to the ruling party's acute embarrassment, the motion was adopted though the National Front has a majority in the House.

Total strike in Lanka's Tamil areas

COLOMBO, May 21, (Kuna): A total hartal was staged today in the northern and the eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, instigated by the most powerful of Tamil militant groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), according to reports reaching Colombo from these areas.

The hartal, these reports said, was staged as a protest against the harassment of Tamils in the central plantation areas, where a leader of a union, Periyasamy Chandrasekaran, was arrested last week by police and the government's decision to send back some 100,000 Indian passport holders.

All shops, schools and government offices closed on the orders of the LTTE. No vehicles were allowed to ply on the roads and trains, too did not run to these areas.

UK wooing EEC

SA sanctions maybe lifted

PARKNASILLA, Ireland, May 21. (AP): Britain said yesterday it has wooed the European Economic Community into considering easing sanctions against South Africa.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd dismissed as "somewhat unreal" urgings from the 49-nation Commonwealth — to which Britain also belongs — for the wealthy European trade bloc to maintain its modest embargoes against South Africa.

Hurd said he was not sure whether the foreign minister will agree at a meeting next month to ease sanctions against South Africa.

But he said that even the most pro-sanctions members, Denmark and Ireland, agreed the community should now respond to South African President F.W. de Klerk's reform programme.

Hurd said he spoke "of easing the pressure to give encouragement to De Klerk and of the risks he is running."

"That general analysis is now a common approach," Hurd told reporters.

"We need to take stock ... the Portuguese, the Greeks, the Spanish, even the Dutch, the Belgians — we need to consider how we pinpoint the signals, was the Greek phrase, so we can give encouragement."

Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins, in separate remarks to reporters, said the foreign ministers will decide what action to take about South Africa at their next meeting in Luxembourg in mid-June.

The foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Economic Community discussed South Africa during a weekend meeting in this southwest Ireland vacation resort.

Most of the community's leaders and foreign ministers have met De Klerk during the past two weeks while he has toured European capitals seeking support for his white-led government's reforms and pledged to abolish apartheid totally.

In February, Britain broke ranks with the community and eased embargoes after De Klerk released black leader Nelson Mandela and lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress.

But Britain needs agreement from its European partners to shift community-wide embargoes imposed in 1985 and 1986. The main ones are bans on the import of South African iron and steel, kruggerand gold coins, on new government investment and on military or nuclear co-operation.

De Klerk met with his West German counterpart Richard von Weizsäcker today in the first of a series of meetings with government officials in Bonn, aimed at drawing support for Pretoria's political reforms.

Later in the day, De Klerk, who is on his first official visit to Bonn, is scheduled to meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Blacks angered by police shootings barricaded their township in the racially-torn South African gold mining centre of Welkom today, driving away intruders with stones and axes.

Abidjan police strike

ABIDJAN, May 21. (Reuters): Paramilitary gendarmes tore down road blocks manned by striking policemen today in Ivory Coast, the world's number-one cocoa-producing country, police sources and diplomats said.

Soldiers also took up positions on a major road in the main city, Abidjan, and witnesses said they heard some shots. Traffic was jammed in the centre of the city.

"It's a wildcat strike by policemen being broken up by gendarmes," one diplomat said. "The police presumably will be punished for wildcatting."

The West African state has been buffeted by protests and strikes since February in the most serious political unrest since independence from France in 1960.

Young military recruits demanding pay rises and an extension of their military service took over the main airport for a day last week and ran wild in Abidjan with commandeered cars and trucks. The government bowed to their demands.

Dockers had also threatened to stop work today but port sources said they would wait at least until Tuesday for a government reply to demands for pay rises and other concessions.

The police strike appeared to be confined to men at central police headquarters in Abidjan. Some other police stations were functioning normally.

Diplomats and others sources said police wanted higher salaries, unchanged for nine years, better insurance benefits and improved housing subsidies.

Tutu heckled 'Lay off Israel'

PASADENA, California, May 21. (AP): Activists from the militant Jewish Defence League heckled Archbishop Desmond Tutu, forcing cancellation of an outdoor reception for the Nobel peace prize winner at an Episcopal church.

The protesters shouted angry epithets at Tutu, prompting All Saints Episcopal church officials to hustle the spiritual leader away from the area and cancel the outdoor reception yesterday.

"Tell him to lay off Israel," said Irv Rubin, JDL spokesman. He was referring to the South African cleric's recent trip to the Middle East where he urged Jewish leaders to speak out in support of a separate Palestinian state.

The Rev. Dr. George Regas, rector of the church, said Tutu was not angered by the demonstrators.

"Please let them say what they want to say, because in my country they are not allowed to do that," Regas quoted Tutu as saying.

Before the confrontation, Tutu delivered an hour-long sermon to an overflow crowd. Up to 2,000 people were turned away and watched the service on closed circuit television sets outside.



Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat greet each other warmly in Cairo on Sunday. Both leaders were in Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat meets with Mandela

'Brothers in suffering'

CAIRO, May 21. (Reuters): Nelson Mandela and Yasser Arafat, both champions of revolution, warmly greeted each other yesterday, greeted each other warmly yesterday and swapped notes on their campaigns in Africa and the Middle East.

PLO chairman Arafat, pistol strapped to his side and wearing military fatigues and checked Palestinian scarf or keffiyeh, shook hands vigorously with the grey-suited Mandela.

They beamed at one another. It was their first meeting.

"We're brothers in suffering," said Arafat. "We have a lot to talk about. We're in the same trench."

"Yes, but it's okay to suffer when it's in a good cause," replied Mandela, the black nationalist freed in February after 27 years in prison and now negotiating with Pretoria for an end to apartheid and the formation of a non-racial state.

The two grey-haired leaders arrived in Egypt on Saturday and have held separate talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Princess Royal to visit Moscow

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Queen Elizabeth's daughter, Anne known as the Princess Royal, will travel to the Soviet Union this week for the first official visit by a member of the British royal family since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

The princess, a distant relative of imperial Russia's last Tsar, Nicholas II, leaves Britain on Wednesday and is expected to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday at the start of a 13-day trip.

She will also address students at Moscow's state university, speak to religious leaders and attend a performance of the Bolshoi ballet.

The Queen, whose grandfather, George V, was a cousin of Tsar Nicholas, accepted an invitation to visit Moscow made by Gorbachev when they met in London last year.

The invitation was seen as a move aimed at healing a rift in Anglo-Soviet relations since the killing of the Tsar and his family.

White South African activist Woods delighted to return home from exile

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): White South African civil rights activist Donald Woods, whose life was portrayed in the award-winning film "Cry Freedom", said yesterday he was delighted he could return home from exile without facing charges.

"It's great. It's very good to know I can go there without the thought of some pending prosecution being brought," Woods said in London, where he has been living in exile for 12 years.

He said he would visit South Africa in August to begin writing about changes in

the country and would make a trip with his wife and five children in December.

"We have no immediate plans to settle back there but of course we will eventually," he told Reuters.

David Briceland, who now has Wood's old job as editor of the east London Daily Despatch, told Woods he had received a letter from President F.W. de Klerk saying he had been exonerated.

"I wish to inform you that there are neither restrictions on Mr Woods nor any charges outstanding against him,"

Russian workers strike in Estonia

Bid for independence opposed

TALLINN, Soviet Union, May 21. (Reuters): Russian-speaking workers opposed to Estonia's bid for independence went on strike in the Baltic republic today and urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to overrule the local government.

But the extent of the stoppage was unclear. Leaders of the strike committee said workers at 11 plants in Tallinn, the capital, had joined the strike by midday but Estonian government officials put the figure much lower.

"We want guarantees of equal rights for all the people of the republic."

We have had enough of being repressed," said strike committee member Yuri Sokolov, speaking at makeshift headquarters in the Tallinn shipyard.

"We want Mikhail Gorbachev to introduce direct presidential rule and annual decisions taken by our government. Otherwise there is a danger of civil war," he said.

Russian speakers, who make up at least 40 per cent of the republic's 1.5 million people, have been alarmed by Estonian government moves to restore the republic's independence.

Like neighbouring Latvia and Lithuania, also seeking to run their own affairs, Estonia was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 after a secret deal between the Kremlin and Nazi Germany.

Gorbachev last week declared null and void a March 30 declaration by the Estonian parliament, and a similar move by Latvia, of a "step-by-step" return to independence.

In Lithuania, which declared independence before its Baltic neighbours and has since faced a Kremlin economic blockade, parliament was scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss whether to suspend laws in an attempt to open independence talks with Moscow.

Russian workers, many of whom moved to Estonia after 1940, said they feared discrimination if the republic succeeded in breaking away from the Soviet Union.

They were also worried that market-oriented economic reforms planned by the new government would mean closure of old, inefficient and polluted heavy industry plants.

"We realise that there must be economic reforms, but we want social security as well," said Viktor Zakharov, a Russian who came to work in the Tallinn shipyard in 1971.

"They treat us here like second-class citizens. They call us occupiers. It's getting worse than South Africa," he said.

Sokolov told reporters that 11 heavy industry plants in Tallinn, each with at least 1,000 employees, had stopped work, including the shipyard and the Dvigatel military plant, a holder of pre-1989 contracts.

He said workers in Northeastern Estonia, where Russian-speakers predominate, were also on strike, with the support of local officials and the pro-Moscow Communist Party.

But a spokeswoman for the local council in the northeastern city of Narva said workers at only one plant were considering going on strike. And in the predominantly Russian city of Kokkila-Yarve, a spokeswoman said no one was on strike.

Matti Petak, an adviser to Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, disputed Sokolov's strike much lower. Most people want to work," he said.

Arthur Kopytyn, a spokesman for the Russian Strike Committee in the Estonian capital of Tallinn, said 15 large plants were fully on strike, and limited strike activity was reported at dozens of others.

Journalist Tarmo Tammerik disputed those figures, however. He said that at one of the plants Kopytyn reported to be on strike — an electronics facility — the employees voted to continue working.



Train rammed, 9 dead

A crane lifts the mangled wreckage of a passenger carriage over the beach at Gantiadi, Soviet Abkhazia, May 20. The carriage fell into the Black Sea after being rammed by a freight train, May 19, killing nine people. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pay approved Gorby's salary \$6,400

MOSCOW, May 21. (UPI): The Soviet parliament voted today to pay President Mikhail Gorbachev 4,000 roubles (\$6,400) a month and provide him with an apartment in Moscow and dachas in the capital's suburbs and the Crimea.

Gorbachev's salary under the measure is at least 15 times the average Soviet income of about 250 roubles (\$400) a month.

"The Soviet parliament approved a decision on the maintenance and protection of the Soviet president for the first time in Soviet history," the official Tass news agency said. "This is another step toward a law-governed state where all spheres of life are regulated by law and not by secret instructions."

The measure sets the salary at 4,000 roubles a month, with Gorbachev's take-home pay about 2,300 roubles (\$3,680) after taxes.

It was unclear exactly how much Gorbachev was making before the move by the parliament, but he said last year he and other politburo members earned 1,200 roubles (\$1,920) a month in their top Communist Party posts.

Yugoslavia violence Partymen beaten

BELGRADE, May 21. (AP): Several members of a new Serbian Nationalist Party were injured last night in what they said was a mass attack in a town outside Belgrade, the party's president said.

In another report of possible political violence, a member of a party representing the Serb minority in Croatia was stabbed last night, the state news agency Tanjug said.

The victim was hospitalised with injuries, it added. Tensions are high between Croatia's 450,000 Serbs and their traditional rivals, the Croats, following a landslide election victory for Croatian nationalists advocating more autonomy from Yugoslavia's five other republics.

Mirko Jovic, president of the Serbian National Renewal Party, which claims a membership of over 400,000 said 27 party members were attacked Saturday when they arrived in the town of Titov Vrh, in Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, for a rally.

Police had banned the rally on grounds it would cause unrest. About a dozen opposition parties often with a nationalist bent have emerged in Serbia in recent months. But the republic, Yugoslavia's largest, is the only one not to have legalised any party beside the communists.

Jovic said nine out of 10 of his party's rallies are banned. But party general secretary Alexander Spasic told a news conference the party was unaware of Saturday's ban.

White South African activist Woods delighted to return home from exile

Briceland quoted De Klerk as saying,

"However, I hope that Mr Woods will in future adopt a more positive attitude towards our efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement," he added.

Woods said: "David wrote to the president in December asking for my position to be clarified but to tell you the truth we had forgotten all about it."

Woods escaped with his family in 1978 after he was banned for his newspaper articles critical of apartheid. He has worked as a freelance journalist in London

and travelled the world speaking against apartheid.

His friendship with black activist Steve Biko, who died in police custody, and his dramatic escape from South Africa helped inspire the 1987 film "Cry Freedom."

Reformist De Klerk lifted a ban in February on Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and former enemies, including Woods, in an attempt to reach a peaceful settlement to the country's political deadlock.

Algeria polls fever begins

ALGIERS, May 21. (AP): An already divisive election campaign opened officially today in the first genuine multi-party challenge to the ruling National Liberation Front in three decades.

No matter who wins the municipal and regional elections June 12, the landscape of Algerian politics will change more than at any time since the socialist front, known as the FLN, came to power when the North African country won independence from France in 1962.

The chief opposition comes from the growing Islamic Salvation Front, a fundamentalist organisation that drew tens of thousands of supporters in a march through the capital last month.

On the left are a multitude of newly authorised small parties, including a Communist Party. Their weakness is highlighted by the shifting factions dividing an umbrella group, the Democratic Front, that has prevented any kind of coherent platform.

Faced with overwhelming odds against them, several parties of the Democratic Front have decided to boycott the elections, claiming they are not being organised fairly.

This leaves the Islamic Salvation Front, headed by Abbas Madani, a veteran of the eight-year war of independence and teacher of philosophy, as the principal opposition group.

Madani has succeeded in turning the imagination of many of the poorly educated, unemployed masses in Algerian cities.

"You must allow Algeria to be ruled by the faith of 99 per cent of its inhabitants," Madani tells the faithful in huge rallies that have become a weekly feature in recent months.

In practice, this would mean instituting an Islamic regime, reducing the role of women and cutting back economic links with the West.

Women, however, are wearing clothing that is a mix of styles from Madani's supporters who demand females wear scarves covering their head, neck and ears.

Madani accused President Chadli Benjedid in a recent speech of "ruling a Muslim state in violation of Islamic law."

But many Algerians fear an Islamist victory. Even if they favour some of the smaller parties, they see the FLN as the only hedge against losing personal liberties.

"We regard the victory of the FLN as a lesser evil," said Abdelatif Shabani, a shopkeeper who would have backed the social democrats. "The FLN is still our best guarantee that we will not have to submit to an Iranian-style religious regime."

The FLN has made a significant comeback since the riots of October 1988 that left scores dead. The protests were sparked by falling oil prices and a decreasing standard of living.

The rioting groups, believed to have represented a majority of Algerians, smashed the ruling party's vehicles, offices and installations in widespread dissatisfaction with the party.

Benjedid opened up the political system last year, legislating a dozen new parties and giving the electorate plenty of time to start making up its mind about the country's leadership.

No Western-style polls exist in Algeria and it is difficult to project the outcome of the voting for the 1,500 municipal and provincial councils nationwide.

Demonstration marches have been held in recent weeks by the fundamentalists, the democratic groups and the FLN. The FLN — with free use of state-owned buses and trains — gathered an estimated 200,000 demonstrators at the biggest march in Algiers.

The elections will have no direct bearing on the national People's Assembly, which should have at least two more years in office. Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN secretary-general, said victory for the opposition in the municipal elections may oblige the government to call legislative voting ahead of time.

But Western diplomats and observers of Algerian politics say privately an opposition victory is unlikely. The FLN holds a tight grip on the country's administration and employs tens of thousands of party officials paid by government funds.

The party uses official premises for its own ads and members drive state-owned cars. The national print and broadcast media are either owned by or biased in favour of the FLN.

Civic Forum has lots of challengers

PRAGUE, May 21. (AP): Civic Forum won the revolution, runs the government and its happy-face symbol smiles in even the smallest villages, but it faces a spirited challenge in Czechoslovakia's first free elections in 44 years.

Foils ahead of the June 8-9 balloting show Civic Forum leading, but attracting less than a quarter of the total vote. There are few distinguishable differences among the competing parties. All, including the communists, reject Czechoslovakia's Communist Past, favour a free-market economy and endorse parliamentary democracy.

Civic Forum has members from across the political spectrum and claims to be neither left nor rightist itself. Instead, it emphasizes its well-known personalities, its experience and its moral authority as the leader of Czechoslovakia's revolution last year. But it appears likely to lose to the Conservative Christian Democrats in Slovakia, the more rural and Roman Catholic of the two constituent republics.

Campaigning officially kicked off April 29, complete with rallies, posters on practically every available surface and constant TV and radio commercials.

Racism set stage for killings

Israeli govt indirectly responsible, says activist

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 21. (Reuters): A climate of anti-Arab racism set the stage for yesterday's killing of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli gunman, even if the killer had psychiatric problems, a leading criminologist said today.

Stanley Cohen of Hebrew University criticised the Israeli media and politicians for focusing on the killer's personal problems and ignoring the political context of his act.

"The climate of racism is created by the policies of the Israeli government, which is indirectly responsible for this," Cohen, a peace activist, told Reuters.

"Not that anyone in the Israeli government gave direct instructions, but racism is encouraged by government policy towards Palestinians and comments by leaders in recent years who dehumanised Arabs by call-

ing them monsters and roaches."

Former chief of staff Rafael Eitan, now a rightist parliamentarian and prospective minister, once said Palestinians should be corked up "like cockroaches in a bottle."

Gunman Ami Propper, 21, dressed in army fatigues and carrying an M-16 rifle, rounded up a group of Palestinian labourers in central Israel for a simulated identity check. Then he emptied three magazines at their heads and chests, killing seven and wounding 16.

Police said Propper told them he attacked the Arabs because he was upset after his girlfriend left him and that he had been sexually molested by an Arab eight years ago.

Today, a magistrate remanded him for 15 days and sent him for psychiatric observation. A group of Palestinian psychiatrists said in a statement that mental illness was used too

often as an excuse for murder by Israelis.

"Mental frustration can arouse aggressive impulses but the choice to carry them out by way of mass murder of Palestinians is determined by the chauvinistic and racist climate in Israeli society," they said.

In clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank following the shooting, another seven Palestinians were killed.

The head of the army's Southern Command, Major-General Matan Vilnai, told reporters that under the circumstances it was a moderate casualty toll.

President Chaim Herzog said shortly after the attack: "Every person and the entire nation shudder and abhor acts of lunacy such as this." Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called it an "act of madness."

Assad receives Iraqi invitation

Arab foreign ministers to meet today

DAMASCUS, May 21. (Agencies): A top Iraqi official today handed Iraq's invitation to attend an Arab summit in Baghdad to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

It was the first time an Iraqi official has visited Syria since the two countries broke diplomatic relations in 1979.

Justice Minister Akram Abdul-Qader arrived aboard a special Iraqi Airways jet carrying the invitation from President Saddam Hussein.

Abdul-Qader met with Assad and handed over the invitation to the May 28 summit in a meeting also attended by Syrian Foreign Minister

Farouk Al Sharaa. Hani Al Hassan, an envoy from PLO leader Yasser Arafat, also arrived in Damascus today.

In a related development, Arafat arrived in Baghdad in the morning and met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who handed him the PLO's invitation.

The PLO announced on Friday that Arafat had sent a letter to the Damascus government asking Syria to reverse its stand boycotting the summit.

The summit has been beset by controversy.



Assad (right) meeting with Qader Ali at the presidential palace in Damascus yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syrians go to polls with wider selection

DAMASCUS, May 21. (Reuters): Syrians go to the polls tomorrow with a wider choice of candidates than usual as the government of President Hafez Al Assad makes room for independents without abandoning its 20-year hold on power.

Independents are guaranteed 84 seats in parliament, a third of the total, and could also win other seats contested by the National Progressive Front (NPF) led by Assad's ruling Baath Party.

Independent candidates, some spending over four million Syrian pounds (\$357,000) on their campaigns, have wooed voters with feasts, rallies, songs and speeches in the liveliest run-up to an election in many years.

Loudspeakers blare election programmes ranging from calls for liberalisation of the largely state-run economy to improved supplies of basic goods and medicine.

Hundreds of thousands of banners and picture of candidates adorn Damascus and other city streets ahead of the two days of polling tomorrow and Wednesday.

The NPF, grouping five smaller parties as well as the Baath, has nominated candidates for only 166 seats in the 250-member parliament.

The rest will go to independents, who were allocated only 33 seats in the last election in 1986 when certain independents were guaranteed seats when included in an NPF list for each multi-seat constituency.

There are no parties in Syria other than the NPF six — Baath, Communist, Socialist Union, Socialist Unionist, Arab Socialist and Democratic Arab Socialist Parties.

But diplomats said a wider sprinkling of independents in the new parliament would mean that most shades of Syrian opinion were likely to be represented.

Interior Minister Mohammed Harba said in a rare interview that all candidates were free to explain their programmes to the public.

US, Iran in fresh talks over claim

Mohtashemi raps liberals

THE HAGUE, May 21. (Agencies): The United States and Iran opened a fresh round of talks today to try to settle Iran's \$11 billion claim over US military contracts broken after the 1979 Iranian revolution, a US diplomat said.

Abraham Sofaer, the US State Department legal adviser, will meet his Iranian counterpart Goudarz Eftekhari-Jaromi during two of the three days of talks.

The claim is the largest pending in the Iran-US claims tribunal set up nine years ago in the Hague to determine financial damages after the two countries broke diplomatic ties.

Washington admits that much of the military equipment ordered under the Shah was never delivered, but says it is only worth millions of dollars.

Iran has been pressing for years for an out-of-court settlement. The case involves some 2,500 inter-linked contracts for military equipment and services and could take years of litigation to settle before tribunal judges.

The leader of Iran's most virulent anti-Western faction yesterday accused liberal critics of the government of acting as agents for the United States.

Parliament member Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, addressing a group of Tehran University students, said the liberals were "drifting toward and upholding the

influence of the United States and the west in Iran."

The former interior minister said the group had never accepted the revolutionary path of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the fight to overthrow the late Shah in 1979.

They were, he said, "a group which has stood against the Imam's path from the very beginning" because they were enamoured by Western democracy.

Ninety liberal Iranians instrumental in the 1979 revolution wrote an open letter to President Hashemi Rafsanjani last week demanding the restoration of constitutional rights and condemning the government for trampling civil liberties.

The letter also accused the government of mismanaging the economy and isolating Iran internationally. Among the most prominent signers was Mehdi Bazargan, the Islamic republic's first prime minister after the Shah was toppled.

Rafsanjani called the group "politically bankrupt."

The newspaper Jomhuri Islami, which often speaks for the anti-Western camp, said on Saturday the group should be punished as traitors.

Mohtashemi said that Iran should follow the teachings of Khomeini, who rejected ties with both the East and the West.

Yemen women wonder whether unity heralds reforms or restrictions

SANAA, May 21. (Reuters): Women in conservative North Yemen are wondering whether political union with the South heralds liberal reforms to their status or a tide of Muslim fundamentalist restrictions ahead.

Many women with liberal views fear the march of social change may reverse when North and South Yemen formally declare their unification at the end of this month.

The South is more liberal than the North in its treatment of women but it is unclear what sort of government will emerge from elections to be held after unification.

Pressure from Muslim fundamentalist groups in both Yemens, traditionally religious societies in the southern Arabian peninsula, has grown in the past

decade. Already there are signs that the South, which until last year was officially socialist, wants to reinstate time-honoured restrictions on women in schools and in the workplace, some women say.

"We are looking forward to unity," said Nagwa Yabia Zabarrah, director of North Yemen's environmental health education.

"We don't know what is going to happen next but we hope to improve ourselves with some of their (the South's) advantages — my feeling is their way of life will influence us," she told Reuters.

Zabarrah, 31, said she hoped the new country would have at least one female deputy minister and would adopt a comprehensive family law similar to one in South Yemen, giving women rights in

Anti-Arab attacks in Jerusalem

Israelis lenient

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 21. (AP): Israeli activists and Palestinian leaders say lenient sentences for anti-Arab attacks were a key reason behind the anger that triggered large-scale unrest after the shooting deaths of seven Gaza labourers.

Few Israelis suspected of killing Arabs have ever been brought to court since the start of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Counting yesterday's shooting and subsequent riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, 702 Palestinians have died from Israeli gunfire in the uprising. Another 216 have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected pro-Israeli collaborators. Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence.

But since December 1987, of the 35 cases of Palestinians killed by Israeli civilians, only five have resulted in trials, sentences or indictments, according to the Israeli human rights group Betszelem.

The stiffest sentence for murder has been three years in prison. Palestinians convicted of murder almost always get life sentences and their homes are demolished.

"The government is responsible because they don't punish enough someone who does that," said Jamal Abu Daka, one of the 11 wounded in yesterday's attack near Tel Aviv, speaking from a hospital bed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders reacted swiftly to the attack, described by police as the worst assault of its kind in memory.

"We are in shock from this criminal act," Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said. "He (the suspect) will be brought to trial and punished for what he did."

Palestinian leaders were sceptical about the expressions of regret.

"Condemnations from politicians isn't enough," Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij told Israel radio. "What is needed are jail sentences for people who commit such crimes against Arabs."

In the last three years, the stiffest sentence for killing an Arab was passed on Jewish settler Yisrael Zeev from Shilo in the occupied West Bank. He is serving a three-year jail sentence for shooting to death a shepherd from a nearby village in 1988.

Another settler has been sentenced to five and a half years in jail for shooting and wounding two Arabs near Tel Aviv a year ago.

Only one other Israeli, settlement leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger, has been sentenced for slaying a Palestinian.

He received a five-month sentence after a plea bargain, for causing the death of a merchant in Hebron during a stone-throwing incident in 1989. Dozens of settlers carried Levinger to jail on their shoulders last week.

Such cases as the 1988 burning of a shack near Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death of three Arab labourers, and the April 1989 shooting attack by a man in army uniform in occupied Jerusalem that left one Palestinian dead and three wounded, have not been resolved.

Arab youths convicted of stone-throwing attacks usually get tough sentences even when no injury is caused.

For example, last year this reporter watched a Ramallah military court sentence 15-year-old Munzer Zaidari to 10 months in jail for a rock-throwing incident in which nobody was hurt.

Palestinian attorney Ali Gozlan noted a recent case of an Arab youth in occupied Jerusalem who got four years for damaging a car by a stoning although nobody was hurt.



Peace discussion

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat left Cairo on Sunday after a two-day official visit where he conferred with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on latest developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian question.

Arafat met during his stay, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (above) and discussed the Palestinian question and efforts exerted to realize peace and stability in the Middle East region.

Pakistan supports the Palestinian rights, Benazir told Arafat adding that the Palestinians have the legal right to establish an independent state on their soil.

Benazir arrived here Sunday within the course of her

eight-nation tour of Islamic capitals. Later on, Arafat met with African leader Nelson Mandela and discussed ways of boosting Arab-African relations to confront Israeli racism.

After the meeting between the two leaders, Arafat told reporters that he called for international protection of residents in the occupied lands against the Israeli massacres.

Arafat urged the world public opinion to stand against criminal acts and asked the Arab leaders to take a unified stance against the Israeli repressive crimes.

Greece, Israel in full ties

BRUSSELS, May 21. (Reuters): Greece, the only European Economic Community country without full diplomatic relations with Israel, said today it would recognise the Jewish state officially.

The government of Greece, guided by the principle of maintaining friendly relations with all countries, has decided to recognise the state of Israel.

The decision, reported by the official Saudi Press Agency and attributed to an unnamed government official, came hard on the heels of the first direct talks in two years between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the pilgrimage issue.

The two sides obviously failed to break their animosity over the quota system for the annual pilgrimage, and the Iranians were expected to be absent from the upcoming Hajj which culminates at Makkah and Medina early July.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Secretary Mohammad Ali Besharati was in Riyadh for two days last week during which he held long talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Saudis reject Iranian terms

Haj issue talks fail

RIYADH, May 21. (AP): Saudi Arabia today rejected Iran's conditions on means of allowing Iranian pilgrims to travel to Islam's holiest shrines in Makkah and Medina as a new religious snag was introduced into the conflict.

The rejection, reported by the official Saudi Press Agency and attributed to an unnamed government official, came hard on the heels of the first direct talks in two years between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the pilgrimage issue.

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Iranian Deputy Foreign Secretary Mohammad Ali Besharati was in Riyadh for two days last week during which he held long talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

The kingdom told the envoy that the quota system cannot be dropped, there can be no political demonstrations at Makkah and there must be no interference in internal affairs.

Besharati was the first Iranian envoy to visit Saudi Arabia since Riyadh broke relations in April 1988, accusing the Iranians of terrorism and subversion.

The Saudi Press Agency reported that the Iranians were insisting on "the pretext of (issuing a declaration) disavowing the infidels" during the Hajj season. It said the Iranians had contended that such a declaration was imperative, under Quranic stipulations.

The Saudi side rejected this, arguing that the religious injunction dates back to the initial stage of the birth of Islam, when Kaaba was controlled by the infidels, the agency reported.

"The infidels at that time marred Islamic prayers and Quranic recitation in Makkah," the agency quoted the Saudi side as telling the Iranian negotiators.



Herzog in Sweden

Israeli President Chaim Herzog arrived in Stockholm late Sunday for a two-day official visit to Sweden, one of Israel's most persistent critics in Western Europe.

Herzog declined to comment on Sunday's shooting of Palestinian labourers in Rishon Letzion and ensuing riots in the occupied territories.

The Irish-born, 71-year-old Israeli head of state was formally invited by the King of Sweden for a state visit Monday and Tuesday Herzog, who will have talks with the government of Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson on Monday and meet parliamentarians Tuesday, will go to Finland for a first visit on Wednesday. He will then return to Sweden briefly.

In the picture, Israeli President Chaim Herzog with his wife Aura arrives at Stockholm airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Khaliqyar calls on rebels to end war

KABUL, May 21. (Reuters): The Soviet-backed Kabul government, presenting its new cabinet today, said it was up to Afghans to end nearly 12 years of war instead of waiting for outside powers to decide their future.

"(We) cannot wait for what decision will be made outside the country on Afghanistan," Prime Minister-designate Fazl Haq Khaliqyar told the national assembly.

The Kabul government is fighting a virtually stalemate war with mujahideen rebels who get much of their support from the United States.

But diplomats said a meeting scheduled for May 30 between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and US President George Bush in Washington held the real key to any solution since Afghan fighters would have to wind down the war if denied foreign supplies.

The Soviet Union has suggested several times that Moscow and Washington both stop supplying weapons to the two Afghan sides.

Khaliqyar, severely wounded last month in a rebel attack, was named prime minister this month by Afghan President Najibullah.

Foreign correspondents were taken into the national assembly hall after Khaliqyar, a former provincial governor, had already begun to speak.

Members of the new cabinet were sitting on either side of Khaliqyar on the podium. Their names were not immediately given, but those holding some major portfolios appeared unchanged.

The formation of the new cabinet, the third since Najibullah came to power in late 1987, had been delayed as the government tried to find neutral Afghans to join. Diplomats said those efforts were largely unsuccessful.

Aftershocks recorded in south Sudan

CAIRO, May 21. (AP): Seismographs recorded two strong aftershocks in southern Sudan's remote swamps and jungles within 30 hours of a major earthquake that shook towns and villages in the area filled with civil-war refugees.

There still were no reports today of significant damage or injuries from yesterday morning's quake. It measured 7.5 on the Richter scale, capable of causing widespread destruction.

Egyptian geologist Rashad M. Kebeasy said two large aftershocks occurred at 9:40 pm (1940G) yesterday and at 9:34 am (0734G) today. Both had Richter readings of about 5. Kebeasy said Sunday's 7.5 tremor rumbled through the desolate jungles at 4:22 am (0222G).

The earthquake zone is about 700 miles (1,120 km) south of Khartoum, Sudan's capital. It is an area of sprawling wetlands and trackless jungle. Most of an already sparse population fled long ago to seek shelter in villages and towns from civil war that has raged since 1983.

14 haj caravans to leave Kuwait

Accommodations inspected

THE controller of the Haj Affairs Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Al Saleh has said that 46 Haj caravans will leave Kuwait for the Holy Lands for this Haj season. He said that the ad hoc committee

entrusted with checking out the accommodations rented for Hajis have already inspected hotels where reservations have been made for participants in caravans. They have also inspected the buildings rented by 19 others.

He pointed out that the ministry has requested the organisers of local haj caravans to appoint a representative for each caravan to co-ordinate with the KAC staff regarding the Hajis who are flying to the Holy Lands and to provide

their passport and tickets 12 hours before the time of departure of their flight.

He said that the representative will be officially responsible for the caravan for all organisational matters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ropme meeting

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): A technical working team of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) yesterday began its first meeting here to discuss the effects of climate changes on coastal areas.

Ropme's General Co-ordinator of Technical and Administrative Affairs, Dr Badriya Al Awadi addressing the participants said the meeting aims at evaluating the effects of the climate changes on economic and social activities of the coastal areas.

She added that the participants will explore appropriate policies and alternative techniques to reduce the volume of effects.

The four-day meeting is being held in co-operation with the United Nations programme for environment, she added.

Bulgarian minister

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Bulgarian Minister of Tourism Stoyan Ziolev yesterday arrived here on a three-day official visit in response to an invitation by the board chairman and director-general of the Touristic Enterprises Company Muhammad Al Sanousi.

During his visit here, the Bulgarian minister will meet with Minister of Finance Jassim Al Khorafi, Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Al Khalid and Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Al Hamad as well as senior officials in public and private sectors.

The talks will centre on economic activities' investment in Bulgaria.

Agriculture papers

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Arab experts in agriculture continued for the second day yesterday discussing the agricultural situation in the Arab world within a symposium organised by the Arab Institute for Planning.

Yesterday's deliberations centred on three papers analysing the agricultural policies in the Arab countries. The first, by Dr Abdelhusain Al Atiya of the Jordanian University, entitled "the current situation and the desired future for Arab integration strategies in agriculture and foodstuff production."

The paper discussed the unsatisfactory situation of the agricultural industry in the Arab region, calling for new policies and fairer exploitation of existing resources for the benefit of the Arab people.

The second paper, which dealt with variations of agricultural policies in Iraq, was prepared by Nabil F. Al Nouri who made the conclusion that more attention is needed to intensify co-ordination for setting prices and distributing products.

The third paper discussed agriculture in Jordan, proposing local, and regional suggestions for enhancing inter-Arab co-operation in this field.

Haj affairs

DOHA, May 21. (Kuna): Visiting Kuwaiti Awqaf and Islamic Affairs assistant undersecretary for Haj (pilgrimage) and Mosques Affairs Abdel Rahman Al Faris yesterday conferred here with Qatari Minister of Justice Sheikh Ahmad Al Thani.

Both officials discussed existing relations between Kuwait and Qatar and ways to boost bilateral co-operation in the justice fields in particular.

Saudi talks

JEDDAH, May 21. (Kuna): Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz held a round of talks with the President of Mali, Moussa Traore, last night.

Official Radio Riyadh said the talks concerned bilateral relations and means of promoting them in different aspects as well as international, African and Islamic issues.

Traore had arrived in Jeddah Saturday on an official three-day visit.

6-month jail

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to six months in jail with hard labour for possession of a liquor carton and ordered the contraband confiscated.

The court was told that a usual police road blockade led to the arrest of the suspect who drove away sending a police patrol car chasing him.

When the bust was made, he turned out to be driving while under the influence of liquor and the police recovered a carton of liquor from the boot of his car.



Bayan School accreditation

Michael Maybury, the executive secretary of the European Council of International Schools, representing both the European Council of International Schools in England and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in the United States, is shown presenting the Plaque of Accreditation to William Pollock, Director and Samia Al Farra, assistant director of Al-Bayan School.

Bayan School is now a fully accredited school—nursery through Senior 6—and in addition to these two accrediting organisations, Bayan School is also accredited by the Kuwait Ministry of Education.

Folklore meeting

Gulf centre facing financial difficulties

DOHA, May 21. (QNA): The board of director of the Arab Gulf Folkloric Centre began its 7th meeting in Doha yesterday. It was presided over by its chairman and the Qatari Minister of Information and Culture, Sheikh Hamad Bin Saheem Al Thani. In his opening speech Sheikh Hamad praised the efforts being made by the board of directors of the centre to spot light on the civilised aspects of Gulf heritage. He added that the main object of the centre is the stress that the Gulf region is not rich with its oil only but also has a very rich cultural heritage.

He hinted that the centre has been facing financial difficulties which greatly affected its activities. He called for seriously studying this matter by putting into consideration the great importance of the centre. Stability can be achieved to the centre's projects and programmes only if enough financial resources are provided. Sheikh Hamad emphasised.

Difficulties

Director general of the Centre Abdul Rahman Al Manaei also insisted on the urgent need to solve the financial difficulties facing the centre. He warned

that the very existence of the centre is at stake because of this problem. He reminded the meeting of the many achievements of the centre over the past few years. He said that the centre's publications have become main references on Gulf folklore. He called for assisting the centre to preserve its existence, identity and continue to carry out its programmes and projects.

Discussion

The meeting then began the discussion of the centre's achievements during the past year. It included a project the pottery industry in Bahrain, a project for collection of popular tales in the Arab Gulf states, gathering and classification of customs and traditions related to life in the Gulf besides carrying out a project on the prevailing popular medicine in the state of Qatar. Among the future programmes of the centre is the collection of Bedouin literature in addition to songs and documentary programmes.

Representatives from the six GCC states and Iraq attended the meeting.



7-Up sampling

Diet 7-Up "the best tasting" Diet soft drink was sampled for the first time in Kuwait, to some 4,000 consumers on May 11, during Kuwait's popular Raft Race Day. Diet 7-Up's improved taste received an outstanding liking by the samplers. This is specifically due to it's one calorie intake and the fact that diet 7-Up tastes as good as regular 7-Up. The diet 7-Up image was further enhanced by attractive looking booths by four efficient promoters.

Expenditure rationalisation implemented since '89

THE rationalisation of public spending still receives major support by various government service sector, without affecting the level of performance.

Al Seyassah sources have learnt that one of the multi-faceted processes of rationalisation was implemented last year when the furniture of employees provided with government accommodations was renewed instead of replaced with new items. This reduced spending under this item of the budget by 70 per cent.

Another form of rationalisation took shape in the reduction of the rentals of a total of 109 different contracts for administrative and accommodations buildings. The cancellation of 317 contracts of flat-type residential units saved KD 2.1 million.

The power consumption rates in public offices, ministries and other government sites, dropped as a result of emphasis on cutting the power supply outside official hours.

According to the current five-year plan follow-up report all these achievements did not lead to a surplus in the total sum of public spending compared with what was endorsed in the budget of last year.

On the contrary, the total spending exceeded the 3.7 per cent estimated, and consequently the development spending on various construction projects, equipment and communication means accounted for only 58 per cent of what was allocated for in the budget.

MPH sets guidelines for evaluation of physicians

THE present method of evaluating physicians and staff at the Ministry of Public Health, is based on personal preferences selected from the weak and excellent levels of employees.

Issuing this statement, the assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Health for technical affairs, Dr Tareq Al Abdul Jader said that the ministry in co-operation with other ministries has set up a joint committee to formulate a set of scientific guidelines for conducting evaluation procedures of ministry's staff.

On completion of an acceptable formula, these will be presented to the Council of Ministers and Civil Service Council.

Briefly, he said that the new methods takes into consideration the nature of work of every employee, according to his abilities and his input into developing work. He disclosed that the ministry is seeking ways to link administrative promotion with attendance of training courses, participation in local and foreign medical conferences and the undertaking of scientific researches.

Jader criticised physicians who receive gifts from patients and also called on patients not to extend such favours as it amounts to conflict of interests.

Israeli threats empty: envoy

KUWAIT, May 20. (Kuna): Austrian Ambassador to Kuwait Hans Demel affirmed that the Israeli-American threats against Iraq will not be carried out, because it aims at distracting public opinion from the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese crisis.

The Austrian diplomat, in an interview with a local daily published here today, called for concentrating efforts on solving the Middle East problem, expressing optimism toward solving this issue.

Drug addiction takes new turn

Large quantities seized

THE ARREST Saturday of five Kuwaitis involved in an international drug ring aroused speculations that drug smuggling and distribution in the country has been increasing. Most concerned officials in the country have reportedly denied that drug addiction is a big phenomenon in the country but all admitted it was taking new turns.

Official statistics show that the number of drug crimes have recently decreased. The number of drug crimes reported in 1986 was 443 which dropped to 323 crimes in 1987 and to only 294 crimes in 1988. However, 1533 persons were arrested on drug charges in Kuwait during the past five years while 1,260 addicts have applied for treatment during the same period. The law does not punish addicts who admit their crime and apply for treatment at the hospital.

But the question which remained unanswered is whether the drop in the number of drug crimes is a satisfactory indication for an actual drop in drug use or not. The answer to this question can provide a clear indication to the efficiency and effectiveness of the anti-drug forces in the country. Official statistics show that

out of 343 accused of drug crimes in 1986, Kuwaitis were 92 or about 30 per cent. In the next three years of 1987, 88 and 89, Kuwaitis formed 30 per cent and 47 per cent respectively of persons involved in drug crimes.

Also, during the past four years, there were 114 crimes of smuggling drugs, 128 crimes of trading in drugs and 86 crimes relating to taking drugs. 53 per cent of the drugs that were smuggled into the country and were later seized, had been smuggled through the airport, while the rest were smuggled through land and sea. Officials statistics show that married men constitute the largest number of addicts in Kuwait. They form 72 per cent of the total addicts followed by bachelors with 24 per cent and the rest were divorced men. Women still remained outside the drug problem as only 4 ladies out of 243 drug accused were arrested last year. This represents only 2 per cent. Men in the age group between 31-36 years were found to be the most involved in drug crimes closely followed by men in the age group between 25-30 years. Both these categories formed 65 per cent of all men accused in drug crimes

over the past 5 years. Unemployed men constituted 17 per cent of the drug defendants followed by unskilled labourers.

Concerning the types of drugs that are most circulated in Kuwait, hashish, heroin, opium, marijuana and pills are the major drugs. Statistics show that although the number of drug cases have dropped over the past few years, the quantities seized have greatly increased. In 1987, for example, the authorities seized 19 kgs of hashish, 1.5 kgs of heroin, 2 kgs of opium and 113,000 pills. In 1988, however, the security forces seized 64 kgs of hashish, 4 kgs of heroin, 8 kgs of opium and as many as 85 million pills. Although no official statistics are available, the quantities of narcotics seized in the past two years is certain to be much more.

Another alarming indication is that majority of the addicts have either primary, intermediate or secondary education. In 1985 for example 18 per cent of the addicts had their primary education only, 25 per cent had intermediate education and 20 per cent had secondary education. 14 per cent illiterates and 8 per cent university graduates.



Camp meeting

The assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for youth affairs, Abdul Rahman Al Mazrooe met with the administrative committee of the 41st labour camp for youth to be organised under the motto "Kuwait is a Green Oasis".

The camp to be organised in Kuwait will commence on Aug 7, 1990 and end on August 29. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the ministry and supervisors of different camps at the ministry.

UAE afforestation

Population problems may threaten dreams

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Population pressures in the United Arab Emirates could cause serious power and water shortages, threatening its rulers' dreams of greening the desert, a London-based think-tank said yesterday.

The Economist Intelligence Unit study, "The United Arab Emirates through the 1990s: A full recovery ahead," predicts major gaps between production and consumption of vital services, with authorities reluctant to curb demand by cutting subsidies.

"It is conceivable that with some 70 per cent of demand for water accounted for by agriculture, parks and gardens, the growth in supplies of these sectors could be deliberately curtailed," said a statement with the report.

"But greening the desert is an

activity dear to all Gulf rulers, as is the provision of full air-conditioning through the long summer."

Census

The UAE's last census, taken five years ago, showed the population rose more than 55 per cent between 1980 and 1985, and latest official figures show a further rise of 37 per cent to 2.2 million by 1990.

Standards of living were rising in the UAE, putting demands on planning, said a report.

"Houses have become larger and better equipped and gardens more lavish, while commercial and hobby farms deplete underground aquifers," it said.

"The grass on Dubai's glamorous new golf course, designed as a major tourist attraction, is said to account for some two per cent of Dubai's total water consumption."

Waste plan

THE managing director of Organic Fertilisers Company, Dr Dawoud Al Sowaid has confirmed the importance of preserving the environment by scientifically getting rid of wastes by utilising recycling methods.

Speaking at a press conference held on the premises of his company, the official said that Kuwait pays great concern to the disposal of wastes from an environmental aspect and praised the government's role towards preserving the environment which is mainly represented in its plan to afforest the country.

Disclosing that Kuwait will soon be free of waste, he said that his company is devoted to converting waste into fertiliser.

Briefly, he said that the company had been established in 1989 and the recycling plant to be built by the company will cost about KD 10 million and is expected to be ready for commissioning during the first quarter of 1993. He said that the plant is to be based in the Amgharrah Area and the company will concentrate on producing fertiliser from waste along with some metals and paper.

The official gave the following breakdown for wastes: 40 per cent vegetables, 20 per cent, mine cartons, six enamels, five textiles, five metals, 13 plastic 5 wood and 2 per cent non-manufactured materials.

Kuwait relief supervised

DAMASCUS, May 21. (Kuna): A representative of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday arrived here to supervise the 3rd Kuwaiti relief aid shipment to Lebanon.

Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Sabah, who was received at Damascus airport by Kuwait's Ambassador here Ahmad Al Jasssem, met following his arrival with a number of Syrian officials in this regard. A convoy of 58 trucks, which

left Kuwait last Friday loaded with medical and food supplies, is scheduled to arrive at the southern Syrian border post of Daraa today.

Sheikh Mubarak stated that the Syrian officials expressed readiness to facilitate movement of the convoy to reach its final destination.

He expressed satisfaction over the Syrian authorities' previous help to the first and second Kuwaiti aid shipments to Lebanon.

Study on local purchasing completed

Protection for manufacturers

THE working team formed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure that local and international firms contracted by the government of Kuwait purchase all their supplies and equipment from the local market, regardless of whether the producer is a public or a private company, has finished a

study on this matter. An official source told a local daily that the working team in charge of recommending the best means to carry out the minister's decision and ensuring that producers complied with standard specifications and keep agreed prices under control, has also finished a study on its work-

ing plan. The sources said that the study report accounted for the degree of commitment shown by producers, of products subject to protection, to standard specification.

The source also said that the working team in charge of reconsidering existing protection

policies to give greater support to local industries and subjecting the protection requirements to a set of parameters, such as the added value, calculated value and evaluating the protection element in the light of the project first year of production is expected to conclude a study in this respect soon and the results will

be followed up. Meanwhile, the council of ministers has authorised the local industrial development committee to protect all manufacturers whose production capacity covers minimum 40 per cent of the local market demand for a renewable period of three years.

Czechoslovakia re-affirms relations with Kuwait

Elections to make changes

VIENNA, May 21. (Kuna): Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier reaffirmed his country's desire to strengthen co-operation with Kuwait in various fields. He expressed hope in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), that he will make up for the visit that he was scheduled to pay to Kuwait last April.

He ruled out, however, that it will be paid before his country's parliamentary elections scheduled for June 8 and 9.

Dienstbier speculated that the elections will make big changes in the current government, affirming that Czechoslovakia will keep developing its relations with Kuwait and the rest of the Arab countries.

He explained that restoration of relations between Czechoslovakia and Israel will not be at the expense of his country's relations with the Arab world, noting that his country will continue its support to efforts aimed at finding a settlement to the

Middle East conflict that secures the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Opposition

Asked if Czechoslovakia allowed the passage of Soviet Jews through its lands to occupied Palestine, the Czech minister affirmed that "this did not happen until now," noting that his country is currently studying the possibility of taking this step.

He affirmed, however, that Czechoslovakia at the same time opposes the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Dienstbier arrived in Vienna yesterday to participate in the conference of the foreign ministers of "The five-man gathering for regional co-operation of the Danube and Adriatic river," which groups beside Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Italy and Yugoslavia.

Priority to self sufficiency in food

POLITICO-ECONOMICS specialist at the Ministry of Planning Dr Hussein Taha Al Fagat told Al Seyassah that there is a set of major factors which make the implementation of food security strategy a basic challenge facing the Third World countries.

He pointed out that any success achieved in this respect by any country is but a prominent indicator of the growing capabilities of this country to gain independence from economic dependence on other countries for food supplies.

He added that this is the primary reason which urged national thinkers in all countries of the world which were caught in the food trap, to stress the need for according top priority to achieving self-sufficiency in agro-production, food, and securing strategic needs.

The trap of economic food dependence and the emergence of famines which have claimed millions of lives in Africa and Asia had been part of a sinister scheme to keep these countries under economic dependency and drive growing economies into lop-sided mergers emerging in the international markets, the specialist said.

He pointed out that amidst the growing awareness of the need to achieve food security, which characterised the post world wars, advanced countries began to devise means to help their countries secure a steady flow of raw material and find suitable markets to dispose of their increasing industrial and agricultural output.

He continued that this mainly depended on different ways of direct plunder of Asian, African and Latin American countries' resources, under the guise of aid and technical help to support national development processes. Inadequate

Despite the huge agricultural resources available in the Arab world which, if optimally exploited, could lead to the achievement of food security, the efforts exerted in the field of integrating food security projects are still meagre and inadequate, Fagat said.

He added that food imports by Arab countries is still high, both in quantity and in value and that according to statistics \$4,802 million was spent in 1986 as price for grains, compared to \$5,252 million in 1980.

To face up to the challenge posed by the food security problem, a unified Arab strategy needs to be drawn up and invigorated by huge political support to be commensurate with the size of potentials needed to be mobilised, the expert commented.



US commander

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad yesterday received the Commander of the US Joint Forces in the Middle East, Admiral William M. Fogarty and the accompanying delegation. US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell attended the meeting. Discussions centred on developing ties between the two countries.

Fogarty, who arrived in Kuwait Sunday on an official visit to the country will also meet a number of officials during his stay here.

Re-export trade

Kuwaitis have lost out to Dubai, say merchants

KUWAIT Al Seif Market in the past, constituted the main market in the country for re-exporting goods to Iran, at a time when Kuwait was a 'hub' centre for all countries in the region prior to these activities shifting to Dubai.

This market has begun witnessing a slight, but noticeable movement of goods coming from Iran to the Kuwaiti markets, but generally speaking it is still dormant since the mid 1980s.

However, optimism prevails that the market will restore its position as a vital centre for re-export. Unlike Kuwait, Dubai has boosted its commercial position in the region during recent years and currently plays a major role as a re-export centre.

To realise the importance of Al Seif Market, one should consider that at the beginning of the 1980s, one had to pay KD200,000 either to the owner of the shop or to the tenant and the wage of each worker during this period was not less than KD400 per month.

Direct imports
To give some insight into the various facets of this market, a local daily interviewed a number of local merchants.

All Al Ali, a wholesale foodstuff merchant said that he used to import his goods from Iran via

Dubai, referring that direct imports will be better for Kuwaiti merchants and will curtail relevant costs.

He added that the demand for Iranian foodstuff had increased in the local market and this had eventually led to a 25 per cent increase in prices. He added that most Kuwaiti merchants import Iranian goods via Dubai except about 10 per cent who import directly from Iran.

He disclosed that some Kuwaiti merchants who traditionally deal with Iranian markets had established their own office in Dubai and for the time being import directly from Iran and then export the same to Kuwait. Preferential customs facilities given by Dubai Authorities were behind the Kuwaiti merchants move, he said.

All Dashti complained that the current situation of the Kuwait market does not encourage the re-export process in view of what he called bureaucratic obstacles. He clarified that Kuwait customs restrictions do not encourage re-exports to the Iranian market.

He added that the Iranian market is a huge one and in need of every kind of consumer goods, but the restriction imposed on the arrival of Iranian merchants to Kuwait has obliged them to

divert to Dubai.

He added that the current re-export system was impeding business activities. He criticised the inspection procedures followed by Al Doha Port, clarifying that the re-exported goods should not be subject to this kind of inspection procedures.

Improvement
He added that he recently perceived an improvement in the volume of commercial exchange between Kuwaiti market and its Iranian counterpart, clarifying that the Kuwaiti Doha Port was witnessing the anchorage of four Iranian ships weekly.

He disclosed that some leading companies in Kuwait are currently importing Iranian gravel to be used in the flag stone industry, particularly in the wake of the prices hike of the Italian gravel. He said that Iranian foodstuff in Dubai is cheaper than Kuwait, attributing this phenomenon to the commercial facilities given there and the competition prevailing among the merchants.

Meanwhile, Dashti expects that the Kuwaiti market will restore a great part of its lost business activities in view of the proximity of this market to South Iran, particularly, Abadan and Mohammara which represent the most purchasing power in the Iranian market.

NBK chief defends disbursement of shares

THE chairman of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Mohammed Al Khorafi has defended the bank's policy of disbursement of dividends as shares to shareholders and said that shares are allocated to facilitate shareholders to deal in trading their shares.

This policy is intended to serve the interests of good establishments that expand their base and in effect this practice does not cause any problems for the bank or incur any additional financial liabilities.

The official said that the bank's policy in this respect has been in force since 1985 and the capital and assets of the NBK exceeded one billion Kuwaiti Dinars. Koharafi said: "The world today does not place much trust in banks that have narrow financial bases or small assets due to the increase of the spread of risks."

Commenting on the scenario that Arab banks will encounter in Europe after the unification of Europe in 1992, he believed that the activities of NBK and their banking interests will increase in the international market.

The restrictive practices on non-European banking sectors have been anticipated and NBK has taken a pragmatic decision to open several branches in Europe before unification of the European system.

The official said that the Government of Kuwait is addressing the problems facing national banks presently, and commented that these will be solved in due course.

On the merger of some commercial banks in the country, he said that NBK is a bank with considerable assets and is well established as a bank of high repute and thus, NBK will not be facing any negative effects.

However, he categorically denied that there are any moves to merge NBK with any of the commercial banks or other financial institutions.

Omani minister

JEDDAH, May 21. (Kuna): Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz yesterday received a message from Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman.

Omani Minister of Information, Abdel Aziz Al Rawas, delivered the message in an audience with King Fahd here today.

Doctorate programmes introduced at KU

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan declared here today that Kuwait University was introducing a programme for higher studies at the doctorate level in a number of its faculties including medicine and assistant medical sciences and nursing.

Dr Shamlan was speaking to reporters following a ceremony held today in honour of the graduates of both faculties for the academic year 1988/89 at the Medicine College in Jabriya.

He noted that the programme was carefully studied and soon will be finally endorsed by the university council and the higher studies faculty.

Pride

Dean of the faculty of medicine Dr Abdul Latif Al Bader delivered a statement on the occasion expressing pride in the outstanding level of the 181 graduates.

Bader urged the graduates to maintain their high standards and not to give up research in its capacity as the basis of development.

Dean of the faculty of assistant medical sciences and nursing Dr Fawzi Al Awadi said that the college's celebration of its 8th batch of graduates reflects its success in providing all means of continuation.

She underlined that three of the female graduates were accepted as students in post graduate studies in the United States in medical specialisations and administration of medical data and noted that they will be the first in this sphere in Kuwait.

On behalf of the graduates, Dr Saleh Ali Al Enezi said that studying medicine was not an easy matter but rather required constant efforts. He said "out graduation is not the end in itself but rather the beginning of practical life in which a doctor can upgrade his scientific level."

Dr Shamlan and Public Health Minister Dr Abdul Razak Al Abdul Razak, who also attended the ceremony, handed over the graduation certificates in the presence of senior officials of both ministries and parents of graduates.

Central Bank to augment cash flow

Need to rehash lending policy

By Ahmad Alyash

THE Governor of the Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah has said that the bank is making arrangements to carry out the recommendations regarding the financial support endorsed for banks suffering from a cash flow problem.

He told Al Seyassah that instructions were sent to the concerned banks regarding the distribution of aid to them for their information. These constraints aim at speeding up the settlement of financial problems facing these banks, enhancing their role in the service of the local economy and the recovery of support money.

He stressed the need for local banks to adopt a written lending policy covering the basic elements needed to manage a reliable lending portfolio based on effective in-house control,

both administratively and financially.

This should also coincide with an effort aimed at analysing the type of investments and related maturities based on a policy of risk sharing.

He said that under the government-sponsored loan settlement programme, endorsed in August of 1986, the bank is pumping money into banks suffering from financial deficits to enable them to secure annual profits at certain levels to help them rebuild their financial structure, with appropriate percentages to shareholders.

He said that the instructions issued to these banks stress the need to improve their management, improve and rebuild their activities based on clear-cut operational policies to upgrade their performance levels.

Sabah pointed out that the instructions also included that these

banks reconsider the proposed opening of banking branches inside Kuwait to rationalise the operations of these branches, and also to reconsider the policies on their operation in the international markets, by re-evaluating their current positions in these markets.

He also said that the instructions also stressed the need to give major prominence to the selection of qualified personnel to run the bank's different activities which require high levels of expertise and know-how.

He said that these banks were now placed under an obligation to evaluate their roles in building the national economy and enhancing the contributions they make in this respect, based on sound planning to ensure the operation of a new phase of problem-free era of the banking sector.



Students union celebrations

The undersecretary at the higher education ministry Musaad Al Haroun has stressed the effective role of the Kuwait Students Union in handling social issues since it was established in 1964.

He told Seyassah that the union played a significant part in serving students interests at Kuwait University and is therefore considered the true representative of students at all levels.

He expressed his appreciation of the union's honouring of participants in the silver jubilee celebrations, pointing out that he has had fraternal relations with the union's members since he was a member of the students affairs deanery.

The silver jubilee celebrations were held Saturday by the union under the patronage of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Manakh case being looked into

By Salyed Othman

THE Criminal Court starts looking into one of the major cases related to the Manakh crises, following the extradition of the defendant from his place of residence abroad via the Arab and international police authorities.

The defendant is charged with stashing his money and movable property abroad in the United States of America, Belgium, Spain, Germany and the UK and transferring KD 9 million to his foreign accounts as well as providing false information of his assets in the disclosure statement he submitted to the transaction settlement establishment.

The relevant authorities had diligently pursued the accused financial worth and were able to find out the true real value of estates that he owned in a number of capitals and inside the US.

Investigations revealed that the defendant 54, managed to transfer his money abroad in a bid to dodge paying his debts, and that he is now locked up at the central prison on different charges.

Sources told Seyassah that investigations into this case lasted several months and led to charging the defendant with two indictments: one forgery of official documents and that is the statement he submitted to the transaction settlement establishment in which he tried to manipulate the long term transactions of shares.

The second indictment is international attempt to undermine the credibility of his creditors. The prosecution requested penalties against him under the penal code and law No 59 on shares transactions and law No 75 on transactions settlements and law No. 42 on settling the inconveniences caused by the shares transactions.

Seiko Named Official Timer for Barcelona Olympics

SEIKO has been selected as the Official Timer for the 1992 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Barcelona, Spain. In September 1989 Seiko made a proposal to the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB '92) to serve as the official timer for the XXV Summer Games, and the selection of Seiko was announced by the Organising Committee on April 6. The agreement was confirmed by Mr. Reijiro Hattori, Chairman, and Mr. Josep M Abad, CEO of the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee in Barcelona on April 23. The Games, comprised of 28 official sports, including three demonstration sports events, will be held in Barcelona from July 25 to August 9, 1992.

Seiko will provide the equipment required for timing, measuring and scorekeeping, as well as equipment operators and support staff. Full details of the specifications for the timing equipment will be discussed with the Olympic Organising Committee and the International Federations of the Olympic Sports in the coming months. In the discussions prior to the award of the timing contract to Seiko, the Organising Committee of the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games made clear its intention that the timing service required at the Games would be more complete and more sophisticated than at any previous Olympics and Seiko will be providing a level of technical support which will set new standards in sports timing.

The selection of Seiko was made after an extensive technical study by COOB '92 which lasted 7 months. Seiko will provide its services free-of-charge and in addition COOB '92 will be renting from Seiko a number of large-scale scoreboards.

This will be Seiko's third time serving as the official timer to the Olympic Games, following the 18th Olympic Games in Tokyo (1964) and the 11th Winter Olympic Games in Sapporo (1972). Since these events, Seiko has increased its support to international sport by providing timing services at major events including the IAAF World Championships in Athletics, the Asian Games, the Universiade and World Championships in major sports world-wide. Seiko will also support the Organising Committee by timing the Trial events during 1991 as well as the Paralympics which will be held immediately after the Olympic Games.



US book fair

THE assistant rector for information and community service affairs at Kuwait University Dr Rasha Al Sabah inaugurated Saturday the American Book Fair which has been co-sponsored by her office and US Embassy in Kuwait.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the faculty of science in Khaldiya area and was attended by American Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell. Dr Sabah made a speech at the ceremony in which she confirmed the importance of organising such a fair. She expressed hope that the staging of this fair will enhance the cultural march between Kuwait and USA.

Howell made a speech in which he praised the fruitful and positive co-operation prevailing between the US Embassy and Kuwait University. Picture shows Dr Rasha Al Sabah and the American ambassador inspecting pavilions following the opening ceremony.

Abdalla stops over

KUWAIT, May 21. (Kuna): Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin Alawi Abdalla arrived here today on a brief visit to the country, before flying to Baghdad to attend the Arab foreign minister's meeting on May 22-23.

The Omani state minister is scheduled to head to Baghdad later aboard the same plane with Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad to take part at the said meeting.

Bin Alawi was greeted by Sheikh Sabah, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saud Al Ossaimi, Foreign Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen, the Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Helel Al Sayyabi and other foreign ministry officials.

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اس کی خدمت کے لئے طلب نام لکھیں
کرنے والے کام کی ضرورت ہے۔
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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM a slow walker, but I never walk backwards —
Abraham Lincoln, US president (1809-1865).Back in Pretoria
Sachs buries
exile spectre

CAPE TOWN, (Reuters): Anti-apartheid veteran Albie Sachs is teaching himself to talk openly on the telephone after spending 24 years in exile shadowed by South African spies.

The 55-year-old white lawyer says working for Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), Pretoria's main black opponent, has made him suspect every telephone tap.

Sachs is one of several leading ANC members who returned from exile this year to prepare for full political negotiations with South Africa's reformist white rulers. Amid the joy of seeing friends and relatives again, he has had problems adjusting.

"The transition from being on the run from the police, working underground... to an open style of political work, you can't just do it in a day," he told Reuters in an interview.

Banning

"I can't use the telephone. It's finished. I have a little banning order up in my throat. The minute I'm speaking on the phone and I want to say where I'm going to, or who I'm going to meet, or what work I'm doing, an automatic censor stops me."

"And then I say 'don't be absurd'."

Sachs, who was divorced, trained as a lawyer in Cape Town but fled the country in 1966 after 170 days of detention in solitary confinement without charge or trial.

He is the ANC's leading constitutional thinker, a member of its policy-making National Executive Committee and an outspoken defender of civil liberties and intellectual freedom.

In a new South Africa "there will be a right to be bigoted in purely private life."

"But when it comes to excluding others from living in a house which they can afford simply because they are white or black, then that is invading their rights," Sachs said.

His fear of surveillance is well founded.

Bomb

He lost his right arm and his face was badly scarred in 1988 when a bomb exploded in his car in Mozambique, where he worked for 11 years as an ANC lawyer and strategist.

He says he is not bitter about the price of his opposition to apartheid but says such attacks have created a protective secrecy among his colleagues that is becoming unnecessary.

The ANC was banned for 30 years — a period when Pretoria boasted of its ability to infiltrate the organisation — until President F.W. de Klerk legalised black political activity in February in a bid to break South Africa's racial deadlock.

The organisation is believed to be debating whether to agree to De Klerk's demand that it suspend its low-level guerrilla campaign as part of the pre-negotiation process.

"We're moving into a different phase that requires a whole different culture of struggle," said Sachs, a tall, softly-spoken man. "You have to present yourself on TV. It's a new kind of battle and we have to rise to the occasion. The debate is on."

Sachs, who said he was speaking in his personal capacity rather than for the ANC, suspects De Klerk's negotiating team aims to retain key aspects of apartheid that regulate education and housing according to skin colour.

"They're still clinging. It's hard to let go and yet it's so silly, because what they should be doing is accept the fundamental democratic premise and then say 'Look, within that, we're worried about this and that'," he said.

"Instead they're hanging on, clinging to the poles of racism and that makes it difficult to get the broad consensus and agreement that's necessary. But there's certainly been much more opening up and openness than we're accustomed to."

Media

ANC leaders are interviewed and quoted on state and pro-government media — something that would have been unthinkable a year ago under De Klerk's headline predecessor P.W. Botha.

Sachs and the ANC study group he directs at Britain's Commonwealth Institute are examining the constitutions of all the world's nations to prepare for the negotiations.

"We're very interested in the Nordic countries because they've managed to combine high productivity with a fair measure of equality, strong welfare systems and political freedom. But we're not setting out to copy any particular country," he said.

Sachs says visit to Cape Town's racially-zoned areas since his return have shown him that apartheid is still in place.

After visiting a squatter camp of cardboard and corrugated iron shacks he said its black residents "have hardly any rights at all. Until they get the vote they don't stand a chance."

Then he drove to the lush white coastal suburb of Sea Point where he grew up, breathing "the whiffs of salt air I haven't known for 24 years. I shiver with remembered pleasure and excitement. I feel at home. But it's another country."

He says a defiantly anti-apartheid spirit exists among ordinary black people that he never noticed in the 1960s.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1629 — Denmark's King Christian IV is forced to sign peace of Lubek with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand.

1693 — French again destroy Heidelberg and ravage the Rhineland.

1762 — Sweden and Prussia sign peace treaty of Hamburg.

1833 — Constitution in Chile gives greater power to president and establishes Roman Catholicism as state religion.

1822 — United States and Korea sign treaty of peace and friendship.

1914 — Britain acquires control of oil properties in the Gulf from Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

1918 — German planes raid Paris, France, in World War I.

1939 — Germany's Adolf Hitler and Italy's Benito Mussolini sign "Act of Steel," a 10-year political and military alliance between the two nations.

1967 — Communist-led riots occur in Hong Kong against British.

1973 — Britain and United States veto UN Security Council resolution to extend trade sanctions against Rhodesia to include South Africa and Portuguese territories in Africa.

1975 — White-ruled African nation of Rhodesia is expelled from Olympic competition because of its racial policies.

1982 — Britain says 5,000 of its troops have landed on Falkland Islands beachhead, and that 20 men are presumed dead in sinking of British missile Frigate.

1983 — Giant avalanche roars down on Teglio, tiny northern Italian village, killing 9 people and injuring at least 20.

1984 — Soviet forces are reported to continue to bomb access to the Pamir Valley in northern Afghanistan, while also pursuing a diplomatic solution to the 4-year-old struggle against Muslim rebels.

1985 — A car bomb explodes in a Beirut suburb, killing 60 people and wounding 190 others.

1988 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev expresses optimism that agreement to cut long-range nuclear weapons can be completed before US president Ronald Reagan leaves office.

1989 — India test-fires successfully its first medium-range surface-to-surface missile to cross threshold of ballistic missile capability.

Whites revolt in South Africa

'They don't want a black next door'

DURBAN, South Africa, (Reuters): Fear is the key to white politics in South Africa.

From the rough western mining town of Welkom, where men and women carry guns and threaten lynch law, to this eastern seaboard suburb where a retired teacher predicts he will administer a stunning electoral shock to reformist President F.W. de Klerk, whites are scared and their temper is showing.

In the centre of the country, whites roaming highways at night have beaten and shot black travellers.

Blacks protesting white vigilante assaults in the gold fields of Welkom killed two white miners, and khaki-clad whites, armed to the teeth, mustered demanding blood.

Extremists

Right-wing extremism is gaining strength and in the Durban political constituency of Umlazi, where next month De Klerk faces voters for the first time since his reforms began to dismantle apartheid — the whites' barrier against a five-to-one black majority for 40 years — people tell you why.

"It's fear, fear of blacks," says Eve Jenkin, a campaign worker for the liberal Democratic Party. "People here have one thing on their minds — they don't want a black next door."

Most expect the Democrats to be crushed in June 6 whites-only parliamentary by-election in a mammoth fight between De Klerk's National Party, which has ruled South Africa since 1948, and the right-wing Conservative Party.

If the Conservatives win it will be a shocking upset for De Klerk.

This modest middle and working class area of leafy streets and trim lawns has always been a Nationalist stronghold and in the general election last September the Conservatives were trounced here by a margin of 3-1.

Nationalism

But tapping a deep well of Afrikaaner nationalism as the Nationalists make concessions to blacks, the Conservatives are steadily growing nation-wide.

Their candidate here, intense, bespectacled ex-schoolmaster Francis Hitchcock, says he will win and local people predict at least a close finish.

He says De Klerk has failed to carry white voters with him as he has moved towards sharing power with blacks, integrating schools and hospitals, legalising the banned African National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups and releasing black leader Nelson Mandela from 27 years in jail.

"De Klerk says he has a mandate for majority rule, but that's rubbish, lies," he said. "White people feel betrayed. They are fearful, panicking. Parents are scared. It's one thing to open doors, another to have six races in a classroom."

At the Oops-a-Daisy florist and gift shop nearby, Shirley Watson says she moved here from white-run Rhodesia after it became black-ruled Zimbabwe and black children of nine with coarse language moved into class with six-year-old whites. She worries about rising crime and says De Klerk is moving too fast.

Over at Woodlands bottle store 27-year-old trainee engine driver Martin van Deventer says his family voted National Party for 47 years "to keep the blacks out," but will do so no more.

The Conservatives campaign not for apartheid but for partition. The Afrikaaner descendants of 17th century Dutch settlers would have their own wholly white "fatherland" with sympathetic whites of British origin. Other ethnic homelands would be created for blacks, Asians and mixed-race coloureds.

The respected Indicator South Africa think tank at Durban's Natal University says the Conservative Party has supplanted the Nationalist Party as the torchbearer of a resurgent Afrikaaner nationalism, a nationalism which feeds on perceived threats from leaders who have lost direction, from fear of alien people who share the land with them and from an international community which exerts economic

and political pressure.

Compounding this is a drastically reduced white standard of living over the past 20 years, rising insecurity as blacks exert themselves and increased world isolation.

Indicator South Africa says right-wing violence against the left already is a serious problem and warns violence against the state is a real possibility.

"The right-wing," it says, "is a growing movement, which reflects a re-awakening and re-channelling of the powerful force of Afrikaaner nationalism, the force which brought the National Party to power in 1948 and maintained it there for 40 years."

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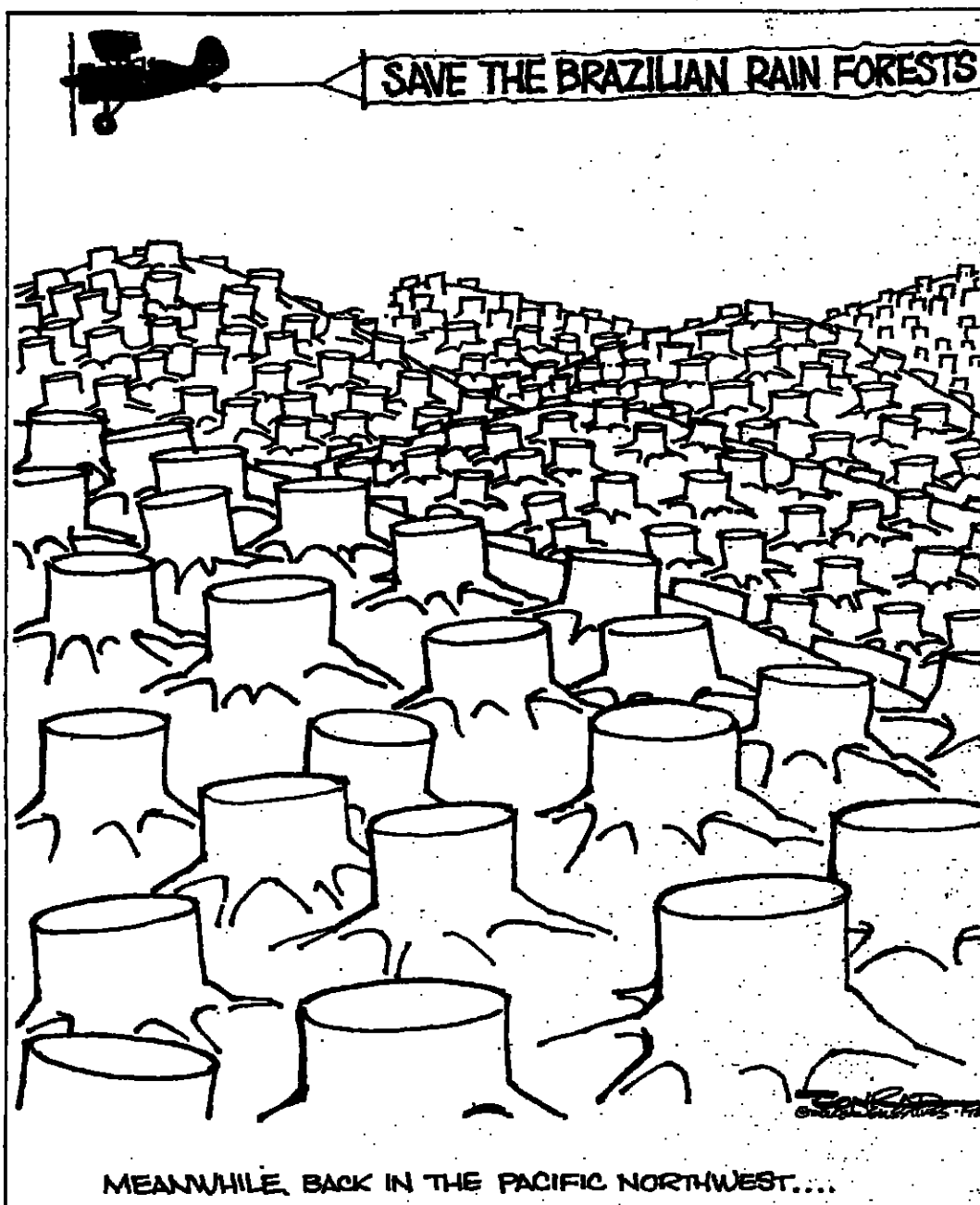
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Switzerland

Isolation fear
nudged Bern
toward EEC

GENEVA, (AP): Switzerland, for centuries an island of peace in troubled Europe, is increasingly haunted by fears of isolation in an emerging supercontinent.

The wealthy country has traditionally regarded itself as a "special case," treasuring its much-vaunted neutrality and stability that has helped attract capital from all over the world.

But as the newly democratic states of Eastern Europe look toward the 12-nation European Economic Community for economic deals and political co-operation, Swiss leaders do not hide their worries about being left out.

"It would be like being the only one in a school class not invited to join the soccer team," said Franz Blankart, Switzerland's chief negotiator in talks on European integration.

Pressure for full EEC membership is increasing from companies anxious to share the economic benefits promised by the removal of intra-EEC borders at the end of 1992.

At the same time, however, there are loud warnings from conservative groups that EEC membership would jeopardize Switzerland's independence and its system of direct democracy under which the people have the final say on all key legislation.

The government says it does not yet want to join the EEC. Instead it is engaged in complex talks aimed at a far-reaching agreement between the powerful community and the 6-nation European Free Trade Association.

Switzerland, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland are members of the loosely-knit EFTA. Austria has already applied for EEC membership, swallowing fears for its neutrality.

The talks are meant to lead to the creation of the European Economic Space, EES, providing for the free movement of goods, people, capital and services among the 18 European countries and creating a market of 350 people.

Of all the EFTA members, Switzerland is the most dependent on the EEC for trade. According to government figures, 57 per cent of Swiss exports went to EEC countries last year, and 74 per cent of Swiss imports came from the EEC.

But the path to an EEC agreement is rocky. Swiss demands for exemptions from certain provisions demonstrate the problems that would beset an application for full Swiss membership of the community.

For example the government wants to keep the right to limit the influx of foreigners into a land where some 15 per cent of the 6.5 million population are non-Swiss.

Full EEC membership would rule out any such room for manoeuvre.

EEC objections to EFTA's clamouring for an equal say in the decision-making process are increasing speculation that the negotiations will end in failure.

The Swiss government says in such an eventuality it would be free to pursue a go-it-alone policy or full EEC membership.

The go-it-alone policy would mean an economic isolation, says Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber. "The consequences would be isolation which would be unbearable for a land in the middle of Europe with all our economic, cultural and social connections."

The powerful farming lobby does not share this concern. It is opposed to EEC membership, fearing a drop in agricultural prices and an opening of markets which are currently protected so as to promote self-sufficiency and help farmers in mountainous areas.

By contrast, a government report has said that business concerns would, on the whole, benefit from EEC membership. Experts say this is especially true of medium-sized companies. The largest Swiss banks and multinationals like Nestle have already secured footholds throughout the EEC.

Economic Minister Jean-Pascal Delamuraz says EEC membership is a long-term option but dismisses pressure for an immediate application as "premature."

A pro-EEC grouping of politicians, businessmen and publishers plans to launch a proposal on community membership to gain the 100,000 signatures required under Swiss law for a national referendum. A vote in favour of the proposed constitutional amendment would force the government to open formal talks with the EEC.

Ironically, if Switzerland did join the EEC, the freedom to hold national votes on issues covered by EEC law would be curtailed.

A government document in 1988 estimated that at least six popular initiatives voted on since 1973, including three on foreign workers, would have been prohibited by the EEC.

A pressure group called the Action for an Independent and Neutral Switzerland says the country will lose out in the European integration process and its democratic traditions will suffer.

"Freedom and independence until death," read one of the more extreme slogans at a recent meeting of the group.

Political leaders do not underestimate the influence of the movement and still flinch at memories of voters' rejection in 1986 of a proposal to join the United Nations.

Officials refuse to speculate on what will happen if a national referendum throws out the proposed EEC-EFTA accord.

"There is more fear of isolationism now (than 1986)," contends Felber. "We have to be optimistic. We have to believe we are European."

The people in Timis are the best informed in Romania about events in Eastern Europe because they can see five or six foreign television channels. We know much more about the defeat of the communists in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary than other people in Romania.

The National Liberal Party in Romania.

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Letters to the editor

Doubting parents

SIR: From time to time, we read in your columns of parental disagreements over the management of large schools in Kuwait but I am pleased to draw your readers' attention to a small school which is presently being run by a newly elected but committed group of parents who are unique in the school's 35-year history.

These ever resourceful people are looking forward with fortitude to the next academic session despite the quite unprecedented departure of the head teacher, deputy head teacher, senior and specialist staff, many to other local schools.</

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Fast-track strategy to expand oil output

LONDON, May 21. (KUNA): Abu Dhabi is adopting a "fast-track" strategy to expand its oil output in line with the expected growth in world demand during the 1990s, a leading oil publication reported today.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly (PIW) said that the emirate is aiming for a near 70 per cent hike in oil production to just under 2.5 million bpd by the middle of the decade.

The New York-based weekly, which is widely read here, noted that the main area of expansion is offshore operator Adco's Bab field, which is set to increase its capacity from the current level of 35,000-40,000 bpd to 250,000 bpd by 1992.

It added that offshore expansion plans centre on the upper Zakum field, where output is being expanded by around 150,000 bpd to 500,000 bpd by 1992.

Assuming that fellow emirate Dubai's crude capacity is sustained at its current level of 450,000 bpd, the UAE's potential should rise to around 3 million bpd within a few years, the publication concluded.

Meanwhile, in a separate report, the publication predicted that Britain's North Sea oil output is likely to fall well below expectations this year.

It noted that North Sea oil production in general is already around 100,000 bpd short of the hoped-for record of 3.9 million bpd due to a combination of technical setbacks and bad weather.

In addition, a massive safety and maintenance programme is likely to stretch shut-downs in the UK sector well beyond the normal "good-weather window" of May to September, PIW added.

It cited Keith Taylor, managing director of ESSO UK upstream as saying that since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster, "safety conservatism" has become the watchword among UK producers.

Overall, nearly 140 million barrels could be left in the ground this year as the rebuilding of oil structures and work on fire/gas detection systems take their toll, it was pointed out.

The low point is likely to be October, when a 4-6 week closure of the Brent system pipeline will send output crashing to 1.4 million bpd from nearly 1.9 million this April, PIW predicted.

American investors sue Philips

AMSTERDAM, May 21. (Reuters): US investors angered at an unexpected collapse in profits at Dutch electronics group Philips are suing the company, alleging it misled them.

NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken said in a statement today it was facing a legal challenge from an unspecified number of its American shareholders.

They allege Philips misled them about the state of its business up to May 3 when it reported that net profits before extraordinary gains fell to just six million guilders (\$3.2 million) in the first quarter of 1990 from 223 million guilders (\$119 million) in the same period last year.

Philips said its US lawyers were studying the case and it would give no more information while the matter was pending.

Philips a week ago announced that chairman Cor van der Klugt would retire a year earlier than expected. He later said he had decided to go to take responsibility for the profit collapse.

A cabinet meeting on Sunday said the raise would be financed by more efficient tax collection.

A cabinet statement carried by the Algeria news agency APS said the increase had been made possible by successes already won against fiscal fraud, inflation and the black market.

The 1990 budget projects a deficit of 3.5 billion dinars (\$437 million) on spending of 140 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion).

Need for viable Opec oil policy strong as ever

AMSTERDAM, May 21. (Opecna): The need for Opec to have a viable oil policy for the current decade remains as strong as ever in order to provide a sound basis for the petroleum industry to develop smoothly, it was stated here this morning.

According to Opec secretary-general Dr Subroto, the organisation would continue to "play its part" in seeking to achieve this goal even though total success could not be guaranteed without the active support of the "other leading performers" in the market.

In an address to the seventh European petroleum and gas conference held on May 20-21 at the Vienna-based Opec Secretariat, he said the years had shown that instability in the oil market was to no one's long-term benefit.

"It is highly damaging to all parties involved, whether they are producers or consumers,

Opec or non-Opec, or the international oil companies — no one escapes," he maintained.

Subroto pointed out that Opec was acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the oil market and was seeking to make agreements that were, above all else, realistic and possessed reasonable margins to accommodate supply and demand fluctuations.

The organisation's ability to implement its pricing objectives over the years had met with a fair degree of success, he said, despite operating in a market environment characterised by "unpredictability, friction between many competing interests and a tendency to veer away from the long-term fundamentals of supply and demand."

At the present time, he declared, the organisation was being helped by a steadily improving world economy and, with it, rising oil demand which would hopefully help the organisation solve some of its long-standing issues, particularly the

delicate matter of member country production quotas.

He affirmed that due to the fact that oil was a depletable resource, there was a need to let the price of crude reflect its long-term scarcity value which required that the price should grow, preferably at a steady rate, through time.

A steadily rising oil price was also conducive to the efficient utilisation of energy, he said. This had been clearly demonstrated in the 1970s when higher oil prices led to significant improvements in energy efficiency.

However, the secretary-general stressed that Opec was not seeking a price that would be harmful to consumers and which would adversely affect the growth of the world economy.

The secretariat's projections for the future were based on an optimal constant real price of \$18 a barrel for Opec's basket of seven crudes, translating into a real price of \$21.9 in 1995 and

Sound pricing policy vital: Subroto



Dr Subroto

\$27.3 in the year 2000.

Many factors had to be considered in the determination of a realistic price, he said. It had to cover such costs as production, transportation and marketing and in the long-term exploration and development of new reserves.

There was also the issue of the "take" per barrel, whether it be in the form of company profits, government taxation or returns

to producers.

In addition, the oil price structure must be flexible enough to accommodate dynamic factors such as foreign exchange fluctuations and inflation as well as new trends that manifested themselves in the world economy.

He said in establishing a pricing policy, one needed to strike a balance between short-term and long-term considerations.

In the short-term, one sought to balance supply and demand and avoid price volatility. Producers needed a steady flow of revenues to support investment and development, while consumers required stable prices for orderly economic activity and growth.

But in the long-term, he said, oil should be seen as a fundamental input into modern economic activity and as a depleting asset that was geographically concentrated in developing countries which were faced with the task of socio-economic development.

Subroto said that looking

ahead, one could foresee a number of factors that would severely influence the course of the international oil market, even though their directional trends and magnitude could not yet be identified.

These included such issues as enhanced environmental awareness, the re-orientation of economies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the vertical integration within the oil industry itself.

The secretary-general said that an important aspect of Opec's policies had been to try and minimise the amplitude of problems as and when they arose. However, this had not always been easy, especially in "a constantly evolving industry, in which every attempt is made to gain a competitive edge."

He noted that the recent "commodification" of oil in the commodity exchanges of the world had inevitably injected a new element of speculation which, on balance, could contribute to the

short-term fluctuation in prices.

"Our ability to bring order to the market depends very much upon the successful conception, acceptance and pursuance of a sound pricing policy."

"We staunchly believe that as an organisation we are playing our part in the conception of a viable pricing policy and during the present era this must be accompanied by a sound production policy," he said.

Subroto said that Tah-tetari's forecasts also predicted that world oil demand (excluding CPES) would rise to 58 million bpd by the end of the century with non-Opec crude production falling to 26 million bpd, leaving the call on Opec oil at 32 million bpd.

Since Opec's production capacity could only support an output level of 25 million bpd, he said, considerable investment would be needed in the oil industry to ensure adequate future capacity and to avoid the possibility of market "shocks."

Downstream operations in Europe highlighted

Kuwait increases share of refineries

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 21. (Agencies): Kuwait's oil refinery and distribution system in Europe can now handle about 450,000 barrels a day, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The newsletter said this expanded so-called "downstream" capacity was made possible by the recent acquisition by Kuwait of the Mobil refinery and distribution network in Italy.

It quoted Nasser Al Salem, vice president of Kuwait Petroleum International, as saying KPI raised its share of the Italian market to 10-11 per cent as compared to the previous 3.5-4 per cent.

This was made possible by purchase of Mobil's 100,000 barrels-a-day refinery in Naples and 2,000 service stations.

The newsletter said elsewhere in Europe, KPI's market share is estimated at 23-24 per cent in Denmark, 12 per cent in Sweden, 7 per cent in Belgium, 4.5 per cent in Holland and 2.5 per cent in Britain.

Al Salem provided the new figure for Kuwait's downstream operations in Europe during an

'Price to reach normal level'

JAKARTA, Indonesia, May 21. (AP): Mines and Energy Minister Gimsan Kartasmita predicted today that oil prices would return to a normal level in two months as producers cut their output.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) agreed earlier this month to cut output by 1.455 million barrels a day to shore up sagging oil prices.

Kartasmita said United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Saeed Otaiba reassured him in Bali that the Emirates would carry out its commitment to cut its oil output by 200,000 barrels a day.

Otaiba was in Bali, an Indonesian tourist island, Saturday and Sunday to accompany UAE President Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan on his visit to this country.

Kartasmita said the oil price would continue to rise until it reaches the Opec benchmark price of \$18 a barrel in two months.

"We don't want the price to increase beyond that level because it will encourage overproduction," he said.

interview with MEES editor Ian Seymour. The weekly newsletter is published in Nicotia.

Meanwhile, United Arab Emirates' Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Dr Mana Said Otaiba, has said that his country is committed to Opec agreements, including the May accord in Geneva which brought about a collective production cut of 1.445 million bpd until the end of July.

The move came in an effort to absorb surplus oil in the market

oil market and the possibility of a new ceiling and quota system after studying both demand and supply.

He added that the May production cut was enough to restore balance to the market.

"I am optimistic that oil prices will reach \$18 a barrel in the next few days. I also expect further improvement in the oil market before the July Opec conference," he said.

But he added: "\$18 price is Opec's target and we will not raise it before reaching a reasonable ceiling that will allow any member state to increase production."

Otaiba said demand for oil would reach 24 million bpd in the second half of the year, and between 24.5 million bpd and 25 million bpd in July 1991, predicting that changes in Eastern Europe would further increase the figure.

"At the same time, a decline in output in Opec and outside it will continue because some fields have reached their maximum capacity," the UAE minister pointed out.

Dollar mostly higher

Gold gains

LONDON, May 21. (Agencies): The US dollar closed mostly higher in quiet trading against the major European currencies today as investors sold West German marks and Swiss francs for dollars.

Currency analysts said the dollar's popularity was due in part to concerns about the impending economic union between East and West Germany which have weakened the Deutsche mark.

"The German mark was a little bit weaker today on slightly higher US interest rates and growing fears about monetary union," said Alan Chase, head of strategic dealing at National Westminster in London.

Other factors, including a strong pound sterling and the lack of economic indicators, made for a quiet trading day, analysts said.

"The dollar is really sidelined ahead of the US durable goods figures Wednesday," Chase said.

The dollar rose to 1.6510 at Frankfurt at 1.6595 Deutsche marks against 1.6510 at Zurich's close, and also moved up in Zurich at 1.4185 Swiss francs from 1.4050.

In London, the pound continued to advance against the dollar on hopes and speculation that Britain would become a full member of the European Monetary System by the end of the year.

The pound closed at \$1.6925 against \$1.6900.

The US unit climbed in Paris, Brussels and Milan, at 5.5930 francs against 5.5645, 34.27 Belgian francs

against 34.11, and 1,220.30 lire against 1,213.30.

Earlier in Tokyo, expectations that US interest rates will remain high pushed the value of the dollar up against the Japanese yen. Dealers said the dollar was supported by renewed speculation that the United States and European nations may shrug off inflation pressures and leave interest rates at current levels. The dollar closed at 153.25 yen against 152.90 Friday.

In Zurich, gold moved ahead to close at \$373.50 per ounce from \$370.50 per ounce, and also was higher in London at \$373.25 per ounce from \$369.75 per ounce. Bullion traders in London said gold was supported by follow-ups to weekend buying in New York and a firm performance by platinum.

Silver mirrored gold's rise to close higher in Zurich at \$5.15 per ounce against \$5.05 per ounce and London at \$5.15 per ounce against \$5.06 per ounce.

Share prices in Tokyo were lower at today's close with the dollar's strength and firm interest rates making most of the market reluctant to leave the sidelines.

The dollar ended higher against most currencies today.

"There's no incentive for (stock market) investors to buy right now," said a trader at one of Japan's big four brokerages. "We're starting out the week like we ended the last one, but interest rates are not nearly as rosy, and neither is the yen."

East Germany cuts consumer prices

EAST BERLIN, May 21. (AP): East German shops slashed prices on everything from televisions to sportswear today as the country tried to compete against the first wave of Western competition.

The government announced the price cuts just six weeks before East Germany is to move to a free market and merge its economy with West Germany, the major step to full unification of the two nations.

Meanwhile, hundreds of farmers driving tractors and trucks left the city of Potsdam for a protest later today in nearby East Berlin.

Parliament met in East Berlin to debate a state treaty merging the economies and social institutions of the East and West German states by July 2. The farm workers planned to rally in East Berlin during the session.

Farmers are demanding protection from West European food imports that are better

packaged and often cheaper than East German goods because of European Economic Community subsidies.

East Germany's government farm collectives rely on outmoded machinery and often employ too many workers in inefficient distribution systems. They are expected to be phased out as East Germany moves to a free market.

In East Berlin, lines of consumers formed outside clothing, furniture and electronic stores as new prices went into effect.

The East German commerce and tourism ministry said the price cuts would average about 60 per cent on a broad variety of consumer goods, according to a report by the government news agency ADN.

Television prices dropped from about 6,000 East German marks, the equivalent of 3,000 West German marks (\$1,818) at the

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, May 21. (Reuters): Stocks were down at the close but off their lows as most buyers and sellers watched from the sidelines. The Nikkei index ended 248.67 down at 31,765.05.

SYDNEY: Banking stocks and leading blue chips were marked down in a bearish market. The All Ordinaries index finished 20.1 off at 1458.0.

HONG KONG: Stocks ended firmer with trade slowing to a crawl. The Hang Seng index closed 4.93 up at 2,930.83.

SINGAPORE: Strong buying from foreign fund managers sent the Straits Times index up 18.11 to 1,570.99.

BOMBAY: Good corporate results boosted the Bombay Stock Exchange index 13.28 points to 780.3. "The market has, at least momentarily, stopped worrying of war," a broker commented.

ZURICH: The SPI index lost 4.2 points to 1,127.1 in quiet trade.

PARIS: French shares lost ground early in the day and recovered only partly in the afternoon. The CAC-40 index lost 7.96 points to 2,092.21.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 31765.05

(-248.67)

Volume: 350 million shares

You exchange rate: 153.25

Name of stock

Advantage Corp 5490 -100

Aijimoto 2120 -20

Alps Electric 2040 0

Amada 1640 -20

Asahi Chem Ind 905 -20

Asahi Glass 1870 +20

C. Tech Corp 870 -24

Canon Inc 1720 0

Casio Comp 1630 -10

Dai Nippon Printing 1930 -20

Daiichi Iyaku 2500 -20

Dainippon Pk 2730 -20

Dainiharu Corp 1700 0

Eisai 1860 0

Fanuc Ltd 7260 +100

Fuji Photo 4120 -20

Fujitsu Ltd 1440 -40

Hitachi Credit 1680 -10

Hitachi Koki 2160 -20

Hitachi Ltd 1570 -20

Hitachi Metal 1430 +20

Honda Motor 1810 -10

Ito Yokado Co 4120 -10

Kajima Corp 1750 -10

Kawasaki H I 890 -9

Kobe Cast Iron 1550 0

Kokusai Elec 4920 -70

Komatsu Ltd 1090 -20

Kyocera Corp 7700 -30

Matsushita 3780 +70

Mat Electric 2230 -30

Mitsubishi C 900 0

Mitsubishi Corp 1450 0

Mitsubishi Estate 2390 -20

Mitsubishi H I 970 -8

Mitsui B I 1850 -20

Mitsui Corp 1740 -20

Mitsubishi Ph 3860 -130

Mori Seiki Co 3780 0

NEC Corp 2110 -20

Nissan Corp 1530 -30

Nippon Shun Co 1160 -40

Nippon Steel Corp 608 -7

Nippon Soda 2180 -20

Nippon Yusen 1490 +10

Nomura Sec 2300 -60

Okuma Mach 1620 -10

Sony Corp 8720 +40

Sanyo Elec Ind 1590 +10

Sanyo Metal Ind 690 -4

Takeda Chemical 1790 +20

TDK Corp 6670 +20

Tokai Marine & Fire 1570 0

Tokyo Elec Power 4660 -30

Tokyo Electron Ltd 4250 +30

Toppan Printing 1860 -30

Toray Ind Inc 845 -15

Toshiba Corp 1070 -10

Toyota Motor 2440 +20

Yaskawa Elec 1030 -20

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain

Signing circuit treaty

EEC delays decision

BRUSSELS, Belgium, May 21. (AP): The European Community Commission said today it has delayed a decision on signing an international treaty protecting the designs of integrated circuits.

It said signing the 1988 Washington treaty could prejudice discussions on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights at the current Uruguay round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The treaty has already been rejected by the world's two largest integrated circuit makers, the United States and Japan, on the grounds it sets standards below those they have already adopted for their industries.

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THE BRITISH COUNCIL

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BUSINESS

Afghanistan seeks help from IMF and ADB

KABUL, May 21, (Reuters): Afghanistan is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank for help with the massive cost of rebuilding the country now entering its twelfth year of civil war.

"To be honest, all of them said wait and see. Up to now we've had no positive reply," Deputy Prime Minister Sayed Amanuddin Amin, with overall charge of the economy, told Reuters.

Virtually cut off from the world since the war began, Afghanistan has been living off Soviet aid and Amin calculates it will take up to 10 years to reconstruct the economy at a cost of between five and 10 the same amount as total military supplies. It would be no problem for them (the countries supplying both sides with weapons to switch to aid) and it would be fruitful for Afghanistan," said the West German-educated former businessman.

He was there just after World War Two. "I saw the rebuilding of Germany was possible ... it needed money and hard work."

But one diplomat warned, "international aid has its bounds and there is increasing competition for the money. The availability of funds does not get better the longer the war drags on."

But Amin has high hopes for the largely farm-based economy, predicting a 12 per cent increase in gross national product in 1990/91 (March 21-March 20) after a drop of 7.1 per cent last year when Soviet troops withdrew.

The forecast is based on hopes of better export performance and greater output of textiles and food.

Amin has also freed some of the country's tough foreign exchange controls by removing the requirement for exporters to sell up to 20 per cent of their earnings to the government at a fixed rate.

This indirect intervention, including making state banks more free with foreign exchange to companies, has been partly responsible for this week's sharp rise in the afghani to around 550 to the dollar from 700 two weeks earlier, Amin said.

But he would prefer to see less volatile changes on Kabul's money exchange bazaar, a warren of tiny offices next to the river.

"We hope if we get financial aid from the ADB and IMF, we'll be in a position to keep rates stable," he said predicting a rate of 50 afghani to the dollar once the civil war ends.

Seminar on electric power generation

Caterpillar Overseas S.A. and their Kuwait client Messrs. Mohamed Abdulrahman Al Bahar conducted an electric power generation seminar at the Sheraton Hotel on May 15. The seminar was organised to give an exposure of the developments which caterpillar has made recently in the field of power generators.

The electrical specialist from caterpillar, Keaton Heavron briefed on certain special features and ratings of CAT SR4 generators. He also introduced the electronic modular control panel available from caterpillar.

Chuck Willis, the cat engine representative updated the customers on the cat product range and Bas Sajid, cat product support representative stressed on the important aspects of engine, generator set installation.

Earlier, Marwan Zalaito welcoming the gathering, reassured on Al Bahar's commitment to provide the best product support service to their customers.

Over 160 engineers, consultants and officials from governmental departments and private sector companies attended the seminar.

Seoul likely to hire foreign pilots
SEOUL, South Korea, May 21, (AP): South Korea is running out of pilots for the nation's two commercial airlines and may have to hire foreigners, the Transportation Ministry said today.

The ministry said Korean Air and Asiana Airlines will need 1,700 pilots in the next 10 years, at least 600 more than the airlines are scheduled to train in that period.

Plans to combat the pilot shortage include hiring foreign pilots, training Korean pilots overseas, setting a pilot quota for each airline and stopping the two airlines from hiring pilots away from each other, a ministry official said.

The ministry said it also will seek to revise the aviation law to strengthen regulations on the recruitment of pilots, improve working conditions and establish a state-run institute for training pilots.

US-Soviet trade ties momentum snagging

WASHINGTON, May 21, (Reuters): Promising trends in US-Soviet trade are snagging on Moscow's crackdown against the Baltic independence movement and its failure to ease emigration for Jews and other minorities.

Some US government and private trade officials said that these hitches may be so serious they could thwart the signing of important economic treaties at next week's summit between presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The biggest prize is a trade treaty, which would grant Moscow coveted

"most-favoured-nation" (MFN) tariff treatment. New pacts on grain and shipping are also involved.

"We are working at it, but it is up to the president to determine if they should be signed," said an official at the US trade representative's office.

Bush has expressed unhappiness at Moscow's hardline reaction to independence drives in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, saying, "it has put some tension on the summit."

But he has confined himself so far to appealing for a negotiated settlement and refrained from imposing any sanction on Moscow.

The Soviet Union has also failed to live up to Bush administration expectations it would pass a new emigration law permitting its citizens to leave the country freely.

The United States demands such a liberalisation as a precondition for waiving current US restrictions on trade.

The Soviet parliament was expected to pass the law on May 21 — the day the summit begins, a State Department official said.

"There are some rocky roads ahead on trade," said Margaret Chapman,

director of the US-USSR trade programme at the private American committee on US-Soviet trade.

"Regardless of the situation in Lithuania, the president must go ahead, sign a trade agreement and grant most-favoured-nation status to the Soviet Union to level the playing field with our opposition — the Europeans and the Japanese," Chapman said.

She says both the United States and the Soviet Union need better trade ties with each other.

Official estimates valued 1989 US exports to the Soviet Union at \$4.3 billion. Imports from Moscow were

\$700 million.

The bilateral trade agreement would pave the way for Moscow to acquire MFN trade status, which would grant them the lowest US tariff applied to any nation on most products.

It would also allow Soviet borrowing from US banks and provide some protection for Americans investing in the Soviet Union.

Agriculture Secretary Clayton Venturi said he hoped the grain pact would be signed at the summit, but added: "Lithuania has had a general effect on all the planning in the US-Soviet area. It has simply affected the timing."

The grain pact would ensure that the Soviet Union, whose main imports are US food items, buys at least 10 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds worth billions of dollars to American farmers for five years starting next year.

American businessmen want to create a framework for rapid trade expansion.

"The chamber believes the Soviet have satisfied emigration requirements and trade relations should not be used as a weapon," said William Workman, an official of the US Chamber of Commerce, a private business organisation.

China's austerity out

Reforms in

BEIJING, May 21, (Reuters): China has ended a 20-month austerity programme and is willing to risk inflation as it rebuilds its battered industries, a senior Chinese economist said today.

Lu Yonghua, a division chief at the state commission for restructuring the economy, also told Reuters some key market-oriented reforms — neglected after last year's military crackdown — will be resumed.

"We can say our policy of tightening credit has already come to a fullstop," said Lu, who works directly under Premier Li Peng in one of China's most powerful economic think-tanks.

Western diplomats said Lu's comments were a sign of orthodox Marxist economic doctrines were losing pre-eminence and that free-market ideas were cautiously emerging.

Since Premier Li launched the

austerity in late 1988, it has succeeded in dragging down inflation from a nation-wide average of 18 per cent in 1989 to 4.6 per cent in April this year.

But it has also caused slack market demand, an industrial slump, falling labour productivity and has cost the government heavily in subsidies to insolvent state-run firms and payments to swelling ranks of unemployed.

"The next phase in our development is to solve the problems caused by the austerity programme," said Lu in an interview. He is currently mapping out China's next five-year economic plan from 1991 to 1996.

Reflation has already begun, he said. The country's top four banks lent 25 billion yuan (\$5.3 billion) to industry in the first quarter of this year.

Consumer demand will be stimulated by low interest rates, and extra loans will be granted to major companies currently hobbled by debts, Lu said.

Privately-owned rural enterprises — the powerhouse of China's economy before about 20 per cent or some 800,000 went out of business last year — are also to be encouraged, he added.

He predicted that with these measures, China should be able to attain a five per cent increase in industrial output value this year compared with last.

"Inflation will probably increase but I think we will be able to keep it under 10 per cent for the year," said Lu.

Foreign investors and bankers have remained cautious over China in recent months because of misgivings on the strength of the economy and the neglect of

Public issue planned

IPC shares surge

THE price of International Petroleum Corporation shares has risen 20 per cent in the past month on news that the company is gearing up for a public share issue.

The shares, which last month were trading at just over Cdn\$2, are now trading at Cdn\$2.50. In the first half of this month, an average of 15,000 IPC shares were being traded each day.

IPC, which operates several oil and gas concessions in the Middle East and the Gulf, including the Bukha field offshore Oman, is awaiting final approval of its planned issue from the Canadian Securities Commission.

The issue has created substantial interest in the Middle East. Requests for more information are being processed daily at the company's technical headquarters in Dubai.

"The scale of the interest being shown by potential IPC investors has been so great that we have decided to launch a roadshow at which the company

will present its plans to an invited audience in four different venues," explained vice-president, Ian H. Lundin.

The roadshow began in Dubai on Sunday and continues over the next three nights in Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The share issue launch is aimed at raising Cdn\$30 million in capital to partly finance seismic and drilling programmes in Ras Al Khaimah, Libya, Malaysia and Vietnam. It will involve a maximum of five million units and is to go ahead in the first week of next month. It will close one month later.

Each unit will consist of one common share and one warrant to purchase one common share. The issue price has been set at Cdn\$3.

IPC is a publicly traded company with listings on the Australian Stock Exchange (Sydney), the Vancouver Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange. It is also traded on the International Exchange in London.



New coin denominated in ECUs
Patrice Cahart, director of the Paris mint, presents a giant model of France's new coin denominated in Ecu (European Currency Unit). The 70 Ecu coins, which bear the head of ninth century emperor Charlemagne, are legal tender in France, where they are worth 500 francs. (Reuters wirephoto)

Warsaw appeals for end to railway strike

WARSAW, Poland, May 21, (AP): Government and Solidarity officials appealed to railway workers in northwestern Poland today to end a strike, saying that meeting their pay demands would sabotage the nation's economic reform programme.

An undetermined number of workers halted rail traffic in the provinces of Slupsk and Koszalin near the Baltic coast on Saturday night, joining about 35 colleagues who had been on a hunger protest, some since May 10.

Today, the labour action spread south to Pila, where workers blocked an alternative route to Poland's busiest port of Szczecin, the official PAP news agency said.

Railway workers in Inowroclaw, also south of the striking provinces, staged a four-hour warning strike Sunday night saying they would wait two days for talks.

The government appeal to end the strike said: "A decision to satisfy the pay demands at present would make the entire economic programme collapse and mean the wasting of many months of effort by the whole society to put the country's difficult situation under control."

The president of the Solidarity national railway branch joined the call, saying strike actions "result only in society's indignation" and undermine efforts to "fulfill our just demands in the best way."

The strikers seek pay increases of up to 110 per cent above the average monthly salary, now about 750,000 zlotys (\$79), and increased pensions, PAP said. They also are demanding removal of the man-

agement established by the ousted communist government for the state-run railway, and changes in the organisation.

A meeting of the strike committee and the railway management in Warsaw ended Saturday without result, PAP said.

Workers appealed to Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki to send a representative to Slupsk for talks.

"We assure you that we are not trying to slow down reforms," a representative, Zbigniew Smykowski, told Polish radio. "We went too far to stop now. We want our enterprise reformed and that's what we are fighting for first of all."

Sicking steadfastly to its economic reform plan to control inflation, Mazowiecki's Solidarity-dominated government rejected pay or benefit increases that cannot be supported by the budgets of the enterprises or the governments.

The government response from the press office, as well as the extensive discussion of the strike in the media, indicated that the government is treating it as a serious challenge to the reform programme.

The drive to create a market-driven economic system has also cut off most subsidies to state-run enterprises in an effort to force them into self-sufficiency. This has created a drastic situation for organisations such as the railway, that has charged unrealistically low fares. For instance, the three-hour trip from Warsaw to Gdansk can cost less than the taxi ride to the station.

Poland's reforms raise cheers abroad

WARSAW, May 21, (Reuters): Poland's sprint towards economic reform, applauded in the West, is encountering doubts and even outright criticism closer to home.

Michael Camdessus, head of the International Monetary Fund, said early in May Polish-style economic shock therapy seemed the most direct and effective road to reform in Eastern Europe.

Not a week passes without visiting politicians or trade missions praising Poland in its drive to break with four decades of communism and embrace the Western-style free market.

But, after nearly five months of austerity, the country is in a deep recession, life for ordinary people is hard and virtually nobody expects things to get better quickly.

"I increasingly believe that one can't satisfy people both inside and outside the country," said Andrzej Wroblewski, editor of the financial newspaper Gazeta Bankowa.

"Either you have good reviews from the IMF and the international and political community but you are almost hated at home. Or you bring relief to Polish families and you are rightly criticised by the international financiers."

Real wages have been slashed, industrial

production has plunged by 30 per cent, unemployment is rising fast and inflation, though tamed, is not yet beaten.

"Real pay has fallen by 40 per cent, the civilised world has never seen such economic recession. The economy's structure is deteriorating," said professor Jozef Kalata, a member of the government's advisory economic council.

"Inefficient enterprises do not go bankrupt, while the condition of advanced and efficient ones is worsening," he added in an interview with the weekly Panorama.

Other analysts, while kinder to the government, also question whether companies are doing enough to streamline their business and make their products more attractive.

"Very few companies and very few managers are aggressive enough and can promptly find new production, new markets, new marketing techniques," Wroblewski said.

"The reaction of enterprises is to restrict production. They don't struggle for lower costs, they don't struggle for the market. They sell what they can easily and decrease their activity," said Leszek Zienkowski, another independent economic adviser to the government.

Analysts say enterprises have been too

hesitant so far to sack workers — partly because unemployment, officially non-existent under communism, is still new and feared.

"To fire people is the last thing they would do... they delay the moment of truth believing that a miracle will come," Wroblewski said.


Despite that, unemployment is already nudging 400,000 or almost three per cent of the work force.

Thousands of jobless school-leavers will swell the total next month, and an expected wave of bankruptcies later this year will put it higher still.

Political pressure is mounting. Farmers are demanding government intervention to buy food they cannot sell. Gdansk shipyard workers have staged sporadic walkouts, an *Solidarity* leader Lech Walesa is increasingly critical of the government led by his former close associates.

Economic analysts say the government may be tempted to relax austerity slightly, perhaps by giving factories more leeway to increase workers' wages without incurring punitive taxes.

But that could be risky, Zienkowski said. On the one hand it may spur inflation, increasing demand in economy.



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MAY 26, 27 & 28, 1990 - 8.00 AM
MUSSAFAH, ABU DHABI, U.A.E.

NO MINIMUMS!

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C.C.C., N.P.C.C. and AREA COM-TRADERS HAVE COMMISSIONED NOMAD INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS TO SELL THE INVENTORIES LISTED HEREIN, WITH OR WITHOUT RESERVE.

(1) CRANES
CAT 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, 6990, 7000, 7010, 7020, 7030, 7040, 7050, 7060, 7070, 7080, 7090, 7100, 7110, 7120, 7130, 7140, 7150, 7160, 7170, 7180, 7190, 7200, 7210, 7220, 7230, 7240, 7250, 7260, 7270, 7280, 7290, 7300, 7310, 7320, 7330, 7340, 7350, 7360, 7370, 7380, 7390, 7400, 7410, 7420, 7430, 7440, 7450, 7460, 7470, 7480, 7490, 7500, 7510, 7520, 7

EVENTS



Sheikha Nashmiya (right) with Leila Mukhaimeer after the opening; in the background is the replica of works done by Lebanese artist Farouq.



Bedouin lifestyle on fabric.

Splendid tapestry



Above and below: Two samples of tapestry on show.

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

A SPLENDID collection of tapestry featuring Arab patterns went on show at the House of Art exhibition, which was opened on Saturday by Sheikha Nashmiya Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Exquisite pure wool, hand tufted tapestry from Yugoslavia collected by Leila Barakat Mukhaimeer, managing director of The House of Art.

Scenes of Arab and European lifestyle in bright colours have been cleverly tufted on fabric. Some of the best designs depict scenes from the lives of Arabs and Europeans. An eye-catching design showed a Bedouin lifestyle — tents and camels. Some ancient ruins leapt to life on tapestry featuring scenes from some Arab countries like Egypt and Lebanon. The replica of works by Lebanese artist Farouq depicting the courtyard with a fountain in an Arab-style house was also appealing.

Leila, who worked for months to put together the collection, is an artist and designer. One of her designs, an exquisite gray and white tapestry captured an oyster shell. She also designed some of the other works that were on display.

Tapestry cost ranged between KD 80 and KD 600. The House of Art is located in Jabriya.



'Ice Capades': romancing the ice

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

WHEN Kuwait sizzles in June, a group of Americans will dance away the heat at Kuwait's Ice Skating Rink with a spectacular display of skills, judging from ice skater Bobby Beauchamp's agility demonstrated at a press preview yesterday.

Bobby, who belongs to the Ice Capades company, is in Kuwait to launch the Festival of Ice, which has been scheduled from June 18 to 24.

The all-American Ice Capades group this year celebrated their fiftieth anniversary of "family entertainment" in the US. The group, which has travelled all over Europe and some countries in the Far East, will be performing for the first time in the Gulf.

The group's romance with ice began on Feb 14, 1940 in Hershey, Pa. Nineteen days after the group was formed, it hit the road and has been growing by the day. So far, they have performed in 296 places across the globe.

Some of the world's best ice skaters have been a part of the show at some time during its 50-year history. The most recent stars were the British champion skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. Over a 100 champion skaters including Richard Button, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Ludmila and Oleg Protopopov, Scott Hamilton, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner have skated with the group.

The show, billed as "family entertainment" promises everything from "Barbie Doll Live" and Mario Bros. from the world of Nintendo — Luigi and Mario — to the difficult art of pair Adagio skating.

Bobby, who has won several medals for his skills, glides on ice. A natural dancer, Bobby says he feels "at home on ice."

"It's a great feeling; I love the speed, the athletics and the combination of sport and fun," he said.

A resident of Los Angeles, Bobby stumbled into ice skating at the age of nine. "A doctor advised me to try skating to strengthen my legs," he said. It worked. And he skated into the profession, first participating in amateur competitions and then making a career of it.

Bobby's unusual career has taken him to ice rinks around the world, including all parts of the US, Canada, Austria, Japan, Germany, Holland, Czechoslovakia, China and UK.

Bobby is known for his vigorous style and the lyricism of skating. He believes this is due to arduous practice, his love of dance — modern, jazz, ballet — and training. He trained under the gifted American coach John Nicks.

If he had not been a skater, Bobby says he would have been a dancer. At the moment, he flashes the blades of his skates in Ice Capades.

The Ice Capades shows in Kuwait have been sponsored by five leading Kuwaiti companies. Reservations are now open and tickets are available from Kuwait International Hotel, Kids' R Us and Ice Skating Rink. Special discounts will be given to the handicapped.

Complimentary tickets, and a certificate, will be given to students who obtain the best test scores and the top four students at each school. The competition is open to students of all schools in Kuwait.



Bobby Beauchamp on ice.



Mario Bros in action.



Some of the sponsors pictured with Bobby.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening: Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoons
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Educational programme
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening: Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoons
5.00 Weekly programme: World of Tomorrow
6.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.00 Songs
7.25 Cultural programme
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.30 Weekly Arabic serial: Al Nar Wa Al Furqa
12.15 News in Brief
12.20 World Today via Satellite and closedown



Candice Bergen plays Murphy Brown.

7.30 Kate and Allie: "Bob Smells the Roses". Tonight, Bob's looks at life differently after his friend suffers a heart attack.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: examines local laws
8.50 Bordertown: weekly serial
9.15 Horizon: "A Good Test." Psychological testing of volunteers in the British Naval Force.
10.00 Murphy Brown: Murphy is prevented from appearing on a show. Comedy. Starring: Candice Bergen.
10.30 Wolf: "Curtains of Silence". Blackmail is the theme of tonight's case taken by private eye Tony.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: cartoon serial
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: focus on why students don't do homework.
7.00 The Holy Quran and Science: "Creation of Man" examines scientific advances and their references in the Holy Quran

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abhahu (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouq Fishawi
Al Sahmiya
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyase'en (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil
Al Hama
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyase'en (Arabic)
Starring: Mustafa Mutwali, Salah Qabil, Nabila Obaid
Drive-In
Hanafi Al Abhahu (Arabic)
Starring: Farouk Fishawi, Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi
Al Firdous
Commando (Hindi)
Starring: Mandakani, Mithun Chakraborty.
Fahsheel Open-Air
Waqi Ki Awaz (Hindi)

Al Fahsheel
Oasis of the Lost Women
Al Jahra
Sonar Nao Pabaner Batha (Bengali)
Granada
Ammavanu Pattiya Amali (Malayalam)
Sulaibkhat
Feel the Motion
Al Jleeb
Baro Bhai (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Shahab Min Biktak (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.21 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.37
Isha	8.06

New IAC committee elected

THE Indian Arts Circle (IAC) held its annual general body meeting to elect the new board for 1990/91. M.M. Mathews was re-elected president.

Other members of the managing committee are Dr Parikh (vice president); H. Bhawmik (honorary secretary); K.C. Eapen (honorary treasurer).

The members of the managing committee are: K.K. George, P.K. Koshi, M.M. Joshi, Bal Sharma, Dr.S. Thomas.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashid Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jamae'ei are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

THEATRE

IAC One-Act
Play Contest
MAY 23: Funkar Arts presents Hindi play *Ek Musafir Khoya Hua*; Telugu Kala Samiri presents *Kalla* (Eyes).
May 24: Samarpan Teen Bandur. Gujarati: Bhatia Mitral Mandal present *Kissa Babul Ke Aangan Ka*, Hindi. Kuwait Dramatic Society present Malayalam play *Akkatham*.
May 30: Madhu and Friends present *Kritihuvu Nanni*; Malayalam: Stage Index perform *Shanti Parvam*, Malayalam.
May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Maarich Senghaad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Nathy Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.
June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.
All performances at IAC, Funaitees: 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Classical Music Evening
MAY 22: 7.30 pm at Kuwait Towers. Kuwait Cine Club holds a musical evening featuring the works of Johann Strauss. The programme includes waltzes like "The Blue Danube." The Emperor's Waltz by soprano Cathleen Battle, such polkas as "Pizzicato Polka," Thunder and Lightning. The evening concludes with the Radezky March of the

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Abdul Rahman Nassar composes the show.

SOCIAL

Kalpak
MAY 25: The Kerala Art and Literature Association will celebrate its first anniversary at Indian Embassy Hall, 5 pm. Variety show followed by anniversary celebration.

Summer Affair '90
MAY 24: Summer Affair '90 at Regency Palace Hotel, High Lights include selection of 1990 Summer Queen and Ms Kodak. For reservations contact Julio, 4315425; Hilary, 5741380; Mercedes, 4890566.

NRI update
MAY 25: NRI Investors Forum meeting: 11 am; Indian Embassy Hall; update on Third NRI Gulf Conference in New Delhi; followed by lunch. All Indians welcome.

Islamic seminar
MAY 23: Ladies-only seminar on Islam: 5 pm; conducted by the Islamic Welfare Society; English-language. For venue call 2518600.

Kuwait Welsh Society
MAY 23: Annual general meeting-cum-social. 8 pm. For details of venue call 3912384, 3713467, 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

SPORTS

Windsurfing
MAY 25: Messilah Beach Hotel's Windsurfing event. All welcome. Entry fee: KD3. Maximum sail size: 7.5 sq.m. For details call 5624111 ext. 739.

Fitch Chess Tournament
THE Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait, will hold the Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Teams: four regulars, two stand-bys. Group A: Boards 1/2: Group B: Boards 3/4.

Open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms from Kabayan Restaurant. Last date for entries: May 25. Tournament starts June 1 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details contact 2402405.

COMPETITIONS

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

FESTS

At the Meridian
La Brasserie Restaurant
Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialties.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.

Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

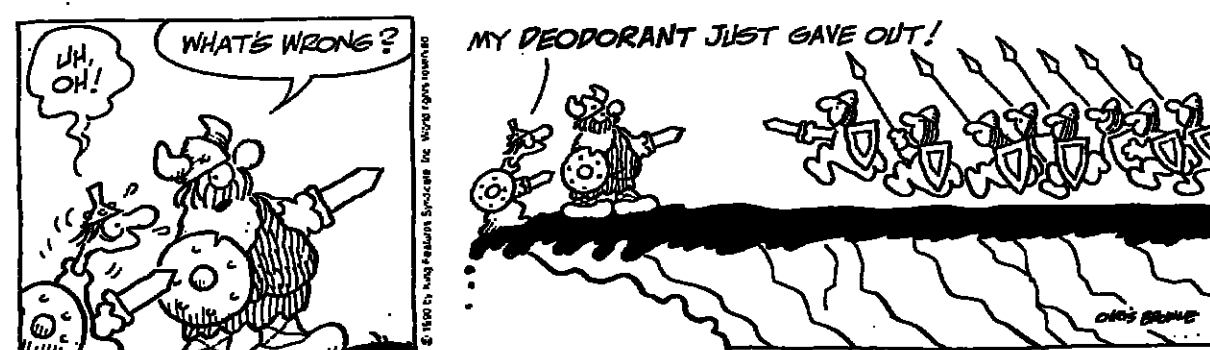
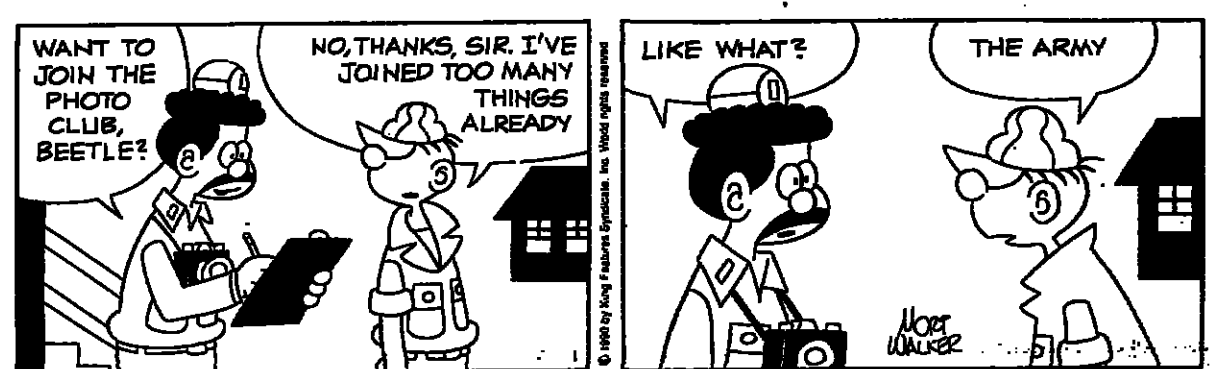
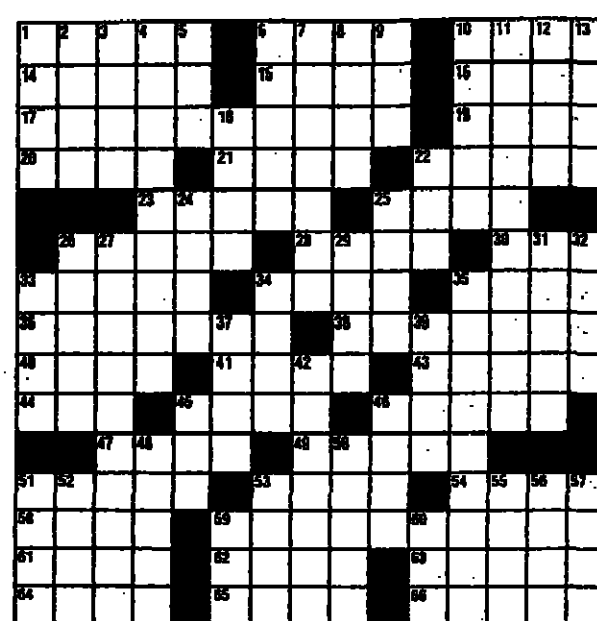
At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah: open Around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

At the SAS
Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** — By Dik Browne**AGATHA CRUMM** — By Bill Hoest**BEETLEBAILEY** — By Mort Walker**THE WIZARD OF ID** — By Grant Parker & Johnny Hart**ANDY CAPP****B.C.** — By Johnny Hart**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Wild open
 - College org.
 - Related
 - Clayey
 - Chorister's goal
 - Feast
 - Mom's helper
 - Bright thought
 - "Madam, I'm
 - Cajole
 - Passover meal
 - Skilful
 - Small case
 - Greet the day
 - "... does it?"
 - Self
 - Five: Comb. form
 - Work on books
 - Harbor craft
 - Fronts
 - State
 - Bring up
 - Employs
 - Listens
 - Sea bird
 - Cad
 - Wandering one: Var.
 - Gait
 - Mennonite
 - Felt sore
 - Aviation acronym
 - Copied
 - In a moment
 - Tag, e.g.
 - Whistle
 - Cheer for the team
 - Swiftly
 - Auto pioneer
 - Urges
 - Sacred narratives
- DOWN**
- Israel's Eban
 - Egg on
 - Goya's duchess
 - Financial officer
 - Hesitant sounds
 - Revolved
 - "Roots" author
 - Haley
 - Craggy peak
 - Sayonara, in Sedan
 - Transports for the nursery school set
 - Arrow poison
 - Close
 - Summer treats
 - Parker's home
 - Campus figure
 - Italian noble family
 - Allude to
 - Baby days
 - Assists
 - Smith's "Park"
 - In debt
 - Skin opening
 - Latin being irresponsible
 - Two some
 - Greek letters
 - Joy
 - Brick holder
 - Coat with gold leaf
 - Leases
 - Sheds, as feathers
 - Concerning
 - Chill
 - Comic character
 - Land map
 - Per person
 - Tints
 - Weep
 - Donaldson or Watson

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BALL FETE GEE
AXIOM ANIL CHAW
GOOSEBUMPS HIVE
ANN TARRAS PIER
RAKES BANK
MODULE SAUNTERS
OPUS MERLE NIP
RACEWAY ALL DONE
ILK ACRID OUST
ASWANDAM SMILES
ALEC MILAN
VALID SENOR TIE
ELKE TURKEYTROT
AMEN ERSE SAUNA
LAD NEED PEAL

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WINNING DEFENSE

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 6 4
 ♥ A K 10 6
 ♦ 8 5 4
 ♣ K 6 5

WEST
 ♠ J 3 2
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ 9 6 3
 ♣ A Q 10 9 8 7 6 4 2

EAST
 ♠ A K 8 5
 ♥ J 9 5 4 2
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A Q J 7 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 10 9 7
 ♥ Q 8 7
 ♦ A K Q J 7 2
 ♣ 3

The bidding:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♠
 Pass 3 ♠ 3 ♥ Pass
 4 ♥ Dbl 5 ♥ Pass
 Pass Dbl Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

It is surprising how difficult it can be for the defenders to collect the tricks that are their due. Consider this hand from the open pair event at the recent Spring North American Championships in Fort Worth, Texas, where East's failure to help on defense cost a bushel of matchpoints.

Sitting South was Gail Greenberg, an oft-time world women's champion and a formidable com-

petitor under any circumstances. Since the bidding had marked North with limited length and strength in the minor suits, South bid her better three-card major holding in the hope of locating a 4-3 fit. When she did, she was prepared to play the hand in that strain, had not East got into the act with a double. South decided that East probably was right, so she ran to five diamonds, and East doubled again, though on less sure ground this time.

West led the ace of clubs. When three clubs to the king appeared in dummy, it was a moral certainty that there would be no further club trick for the defense, so East should have dropped the jack of clubs to ask for a switch to the higher-ranking side suit, i.e., spades. At the table, East followed routinely with the deuce and, with nothing to guide him, West chose to shift to the singleton heart. Declarer needed no more.

She took the heart in hand with the queen, cashed all her diamonds, discarding a club and two spades from the table. Declarer crossed to the king of hearts to cash the king of clubs, forcing East down to the ace of spades and two hearts. East was then thrown in with a spade, and forced to lead away from the jack of hearts into the board's tenace, making five-odd, doubled.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You will have plenty to do but if you keep calm you will be able to get done what needs to be done. Avoid exaggerations in all directions. Do not rely on good luck, if you have some treat it as a bonus. Be sincere.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 Something about which you have not been so sure will now become definite. Indeed you will be able to confirm that you have been and still are on the right track. Do not exaggerate negative considerations. Be reliable.



Libra
 Sept. 21 - Oct. 22
 You will discover how to remedy something you have been doing wrong and this will be a great boost to you. You will tend to be a little over-confident and should take steps to compensate for it. Avoid getting into an argument about trivialities. Be a little more patient.



Capricorn
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
 Avoid believing all you hear but there is no reason to be too sceptical. Instead of blaming and criticizing others you should examine your own behaviour. You will have to cut down on expenditure but do not skimp on maintenance and repairs. Be hopeful.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 You will be able to make progress with a project important to you, but only if you work hard. You are all too liable to allow yourself to be sidetracked, refrain. Make sure your diet contains enough vitamins, but do not become a fan about it. Be polite.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug. 21
 You will find a new way of doing something you have been doing slowly for a long time now, much faster. You should keep your wits about you and not believe that what you would like to be is. Make sure you do not do anything bad for your health. Be tactful.



Scorpio
 Oct. 21 - Nov. 21
 You should try to avoid being jealous of others instead think of how much better off than some you are. A friend whom you have been helping will show his gratitude. What seemed at first like a good idea will turn out not to be. Be punctual.



Aquarius
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
 You are too liable to allow yourself to be distracted. Seek to counter the tendency and try harder to concentrate. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 32. Adapt to instead of fighting against the inevitable. Be consistent.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 You will have plenty to do but you should not live a life that is all work and no leisure. Take a little time off to enjoy yourself but do not overdo either work or play. Make sure you do not let your friends down. Be magnanimous.



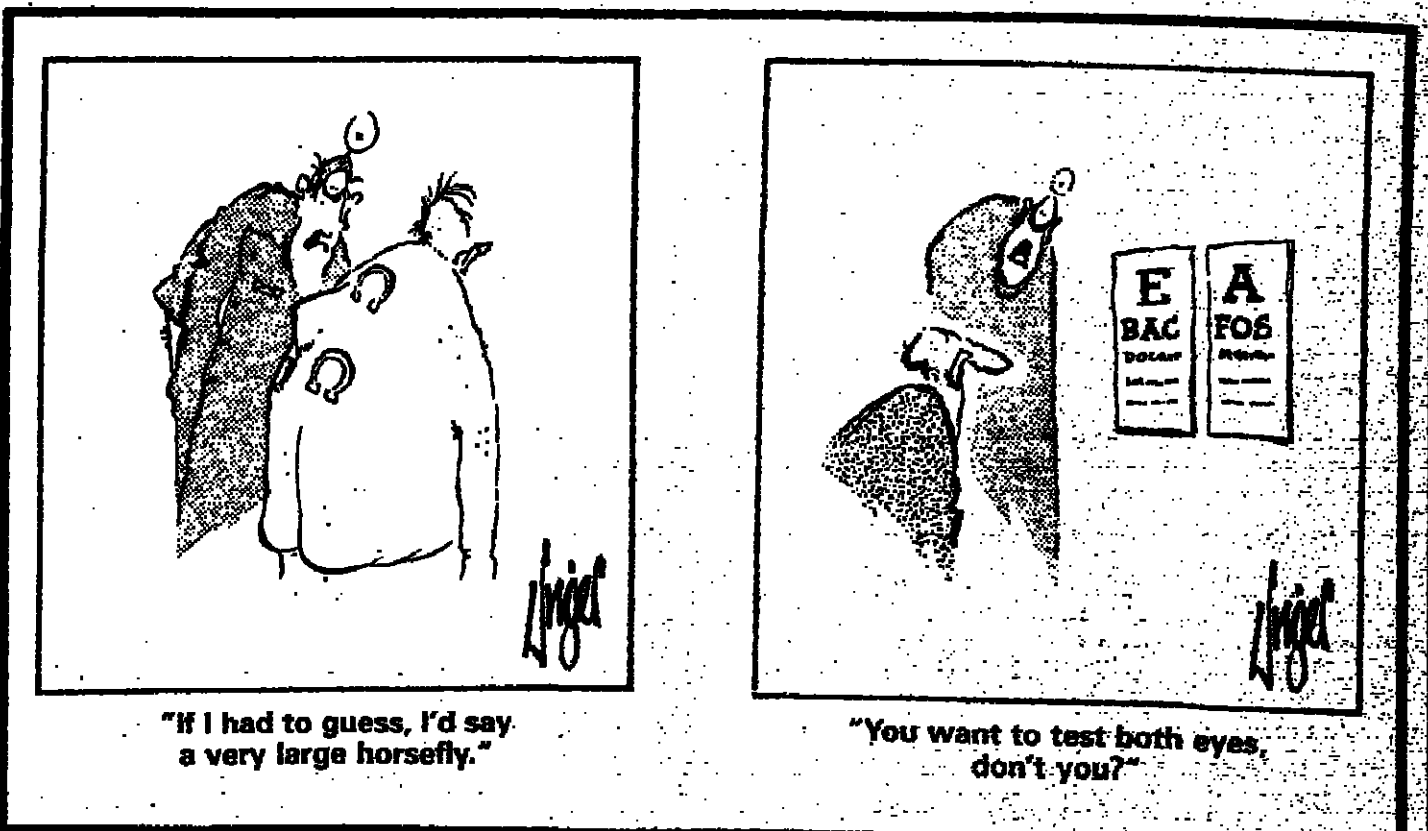
Virgo
 Aug. 21 - Sept. 21
 You should not give too much prominence to a relatively secondary matter. An offer or proposal must be considered from all angles it is not what it seems at first. Do all you can to avoid creating confusion. Be moderate.



Sagittarius
 Nov. 21 - Dec. 21
 You should expect more from yourself, less from others. Something that had been going wrong for some time will now no longer do so. You are rather given to exaggeration and should restrain yourself. Be frank.



Pisces
 Feb. 19 - March 20
 You will be able to do something that pleases you, but do not neglect what has to be done. Avoid getting into an argument. Do not believe all you hear, but do not be too disbelieving either. Be reasonable.





The Yetties (from left) Bonny Sartin, Roger Trim, Mac McCulloch and Pete Shutter.

Our friends The Yetties from Dorset

By Jim Lloyd

Former director
English Folk Dance and Song Society

TWENTY-ONE years ago a window cleaner, two printers and a van driver from a village in southwest England took a three months holiday to travel round the country singing in pubs. For four young men who had hardly been further than the boundaries of their home country, Dorset, it was quite an adventure.

They never went back to their jobs. Today they are still travelling and still singing. Their music has taken them to places such as Ethiopia, Malaysia, Greece and Sri Lanka, making them friends wherever they go.

Despite their success on television and radio, their sold-out concert tours and 30 or so record albums, The Yetties, as the group is called, have retained a love of the countryside and country life that gives their songs, music and stories a universal appeal.

The four members of The Yetties, Bonny Sartin, Pete Shutter, Mac McCulloch and Bob Common, grew up together in the Dorset village of Yetminster.

Today, Yetminster is a picture book location, its thatched cottages and carefully tended gardens much admired by tourists. But in the late 1950s that part of England was still a remote, rural area with little for young lads to do except help with the potato picking in the winter and harvesting in summer.

When the 1st Yetminster Scout Troop was formed, Bonny, Pete, Mac and Bob enrolled with enthusiasm. They enjoyed all

the usual scouting activities, especially camping, which took them away from the village. It was round the campfire that they began singing together, although none of them could play an instrument.

As they grew older they realised that while scouting was a lot of fun it was not bringing them into contact with girls. Then they learned that the village Women's Institute was running folk dance classes where boys and girls could dance together. They joined the class and soon became such accomplished dancers that it was decided to form a display team to perform at local fetes.

The Yetminster Junior Folk Dance Display Team became famed throughout Dorset for its lively interpretation of traditional dances, although the team's lengthy title proved too much for some. One compere, unable to remember their name, referred to them as "those Yetties" — and the Yetties they became.

To give the girls of the team a rest between dances the four boys would sing one or two of the songs they had learned round the camp fire. Before long, singing took over from dancing. The girls of the Yetminster Junior Folk Dance Display Team lost interest and the four boys continued as The Yetties.

In October 1963 they had their first paid booking. It was at a Harvest Supper and they received two guineas (£2.10). At the end of the evening the local vicar made a speech of thanks in which he compared them to some other newcomers on the music scene — The Beatles. He thought The Yetties were much better.

They certainly became extremely popular in Dorset and their fame spread

further afield. Their singing began to interfere with their day jobs, so they decided to take a three-months holiday singing their way round England and then go back to work. However, their relaxed style of entertainment proved so popular that all thoughts of window cleaning, printing or van driving soon disappeared for ever.

Their success grew out of a genuine warmth that made the audience feel they knew them well. It was natural that one of their first albums should be entitled, "Our Friends — The Yetties."

Appearances on television and radio increased their popularity to the point that in 1982 the British Council took the bold step of inviting them to take their very English form of folk music on a tour of Nepal, Malaysia, Hong Kong, (The Philippines), Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lanka. It was the first time an English folk group had ever visited some of these countries and nobody knew how they would be received.

The tour began somewhat inauspiciously — as The Yetties arrived in Kathmandu their luggage and instruments landed in Tokyo.

For their first concert their only musical accompaniment was an accordion borrowed from the music department of the Royal Nepal Academy, while the wife of the British Charge d'Affaires hastily improvised some costumes for their traditional mummery play.

The programme of folk songs, dances and stories delighted the audience many of whom, like The Yetties, came from a rural background. And so it was throughout the tour, with folk traditions acting as a common link between performers and

audience.

The British Council was so pleased with the reaction that several more tours followed, and now The Yetties have friends and admirers in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Romania, West Germany, Greece, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and Spain.

The 1980s saw a big change, when Bob Common left the group, and a few years later the trio were joined by Roger Trim, a psychiatric nurse and long-time friend who was well known on the folk scene in Dorset.

Back at home they spend much of their spare time studying local traditions. They have a particular interest in the music of Thomas Hardy, the great Dorset writer, whose family were village musicians and played in the church band at Stinsford.

While researching in Dorchester museum, where the Hardy family music books are stored, they had the good fortune to come across the novelist's own violin. In 1988 they were proud to record an album of music from Hardy's family manuscripts played on that very instrument.

As they enter their 22nd year together, The Yetties are planning a concert in Stinsford church, where Thomas Hardy is buried, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth. For them, this will be their finest achievement to date, continuing a musical tradition that stretches back hundreds of years and is part of the fabric of rural life.

For the future, they are determined to sing and play anywhere in the world as long as people think of them as "our friends, The Yetties".

Matisse — expressions through light

WASHINGTON, (CSM): Poor Henri Matisse. Whenever he decided to try a major new breakthrough in his paintings, by travelling to some light-drenched place, he found a deluge.

"The chief goal of my work is the clarity of light," he said late in his life. "A picture must possess a veritable power for generating light." But the rains came as soon as Matisse landed in Tangier on Jan. 29, 1912 — great gushing torrents of rain that went on until Feb. 12.

Matisse (1869-1954), a captive of the rain in his room at the Hotel Villa de France, became depressed and decided to leave. But the tempestuous weather began to calm down, and by March 1 Matisse had begun to paint in the mellow, soft Moroccan light he would rave about in his letters. And he had taken another giant step in a career that made him, together with Picasso, one of the great painters of the first half of the 20th century.

Four years after Morocco, in December 1917, Matisse turned his back on his family and art in Paris to strike out toward a new phase of his work, in the silvery light of Nice. When he arrived, the rain sluiced down for a month. He painted a self-portrait that included a large umbrella in a jar. Just when he'd decided to leave Nice, the next day the rain stopped. He stayed on, and in five months began the series of paintings that signalled a remarkable new stage, what Dominique Fourcade, the co-curator of the National Gallery's 1986 "Matisse in Nice" show called "expression through light."

Henri Matisse's obsession with light shines through in the dazzling brilliance of "Matisse in Morocco," the small but significant exhibition that opened last month at the National Gallery of Art. It will shimmer through June 3 here before travelling to New York and the USSR.

"Matisse in Morocco: The Paintings and Drawings, 1912-13" is billed as a "USA/USSR joint project," the first time an exhibition has been worked out in all phases jointly by Western and Soviet curators. It was organized by the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, and the State Hermitage Museum in Leningrad. It

After you have dazzled your eyes with the sunshot colours of the 'Matisse in Morocco' paintings, his drawings come as a quiet interlude in the shade, offering fascinating insights into his Moroccan trips and Matisse-the-painter.

will be on view at all four museums.

As soon as you step through the Matisse drawings at the entrance of the exhibition, your sight is pulled toward a narrow doorway, like the entrance to an exotic street, which frames a fabulous blue Matisse painting. It lures you into the painting section of the show. Called "The Casbah Gate," based on the one in Tangier's old city, it is the third painting in a three-picture Moroccan triptych acquired by Matisse's influential Russian patron, Ivan Morosov.

The other two parts of the triptych are "Landscape Viewed from a Window," capturing the view from Matisse's hotel, and "On the Terrace," a view of Matisse's Moroccan model, Zorah.

All three are on loan from the Pushkin Museum. These triplets have never been seen before in the United States and are among the most important paintings in the show. They are hung exactly as Matisse stipulated.

So the singing blues and greens, the opalescent violets, and the pungent pinks that Matisse later added to unite the paintings as a triptych for Morosov — all those glorious colours can be seen together in one panoramic glance from across the room.

Individually, they take your breath away with their beautiful, pulsing colour and the bold simplicity of their design.

This is the first time since 1913, when Matisse himself exhibited his Moroccan paintings in Paris, that they have been shown. But as participating curator John Elderfield of the Museum of Modern Art points out, this show contains more than Matisse's did — all but two of his paintings.

The show also includes sleuthing by the show's conceivers and organizers — Jack Cowart, 20th-century-art curator of the National Gallery, and Matisse authority Pierre Schneider of Paris — which has turned up dozens more drawings, bringing the total from 12 previously known to 70.

Schneider points out in the catalog, "Every step forward in Matisse's painting took place in a specific corner of the world" and that he "became an Impressionist in Brittany... a Fauve in Collioure."

In Russia in the fall of 1911, the icons, triptychs, and post-Byzantine art with its human figures inspired him and affected his later work. As Schneider explains, "Matisse did not travel to see places, but to see light, to restore through a change of its quality, the freshness it had lost."

In the catalogue he also notes, "During the various stages of (Matisse's) career, what the painter called 'inner light, mental, or moral light' and 'natural light, the one that comes from the outside, from the sky,' dominated in turn." He adds (quoting Matisse's words), "It is only after having enjoyed the light of the sun for a long time that I tried to express myself through the light of the spirit."

Indeed, the light changed on his second trip to Morocco, where he found Tangier not lush and green but seared by a drought that turned the landscape to the colour of a lion's skin.

The contrast between the two trips can be seen when you compare the tawny golds and oranges of the nearly abstract "Open Window at Tangier" with the same scene, the blue-and-green-stepped view from the first trip, "Landscape Viewed from a Window" shown here.

Matisse, in love with triptychs after

Russia, did a floral trio known as the Moroccan Garden Triptych, which included his explosions of colour in "The Palm," "Acanthus," and "Periwinkle." A third triptych, never before on display together, is a series of three Moroccans in vivid native costumes, full-length portraits of "Amido," "Zorah Standing" (both from the Hermitage), as well as "Fatma, the Mulatto Woman."

All had been bought by Sergei Shchukin, the other important Russian patron, whose collections, along with Morosov's, have made the Hermitage and Pushkin museums so rich in Matisse. Shchukin and Morosov together acquired more than half of Matisse's Moroccan paintings.

After you have dazzled your eyes with the sunshot colours of the "Matisse in Morocco" paintings, his drawings come as a quiet interlude in the shade. They offer fascinating insights into his Moroccan trips and Matisse the painter. In "H. Matisse by Himself," we see the artist merrily sketching a marabout, or doomed Moroccan tomb; eyes drawn on the tails of his coat echo those of a veiled Moroccan woman at his left.

The National Gallery's Jack Cowart, who both worked on the Matisse "Cut-Out" show (of his late art of scissors and paper) and was co-curator for the "Matisse in Nice" show, stands in a meadow of Matisse's and explains: "Where the 'Cut-Outs' — and Nice... began was in Morocco. And they are consistent in the sense of the search for illumination, the sense for Islamic patterning, the sense for the exotic, the sense for the lush beauty of colour. They punctuate three major areas of his work, almost all in the same key, and it becomes increasingly expansive."

Schneider, taking time out to talk between takes of a French TV interview, says Matisse went to Morocco to, in his words, "effect the necessary transition" — going back to nature without betraying his past abstract art.

"Because the abstraction is in nature itself — the light is so profound, so strong — it leaves nothing but the soul of colour, you might say. The light floats in front; it is more immaterial. So in a sense Morocco did that for (Matisse)."



"Landscape Viewed From A Window" is a painting by Henri Matisse, part of his Moroccan Triptych.



Bungee jumper Nick Abercrombie takes the plunge from the Ohakune railway bridge in the central North Island, New Zealand. Bungee jumping is a new sport where people jump from bridges — or hot air balloons — for the rush of adrenalin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bungee jumpers get 'big air' thrills

By Carrick Leavitt

TRACY, California, (UPI): Jumping from a hot air balloon 150 feet (50m) in the sky with an elastic cord attached to a harness around your middle is an unforgettable adrenaline rush.

The world's first commercial hot air balloon bungee jumpers, some 60 thrill seekers who recently gathered in a northern California cow pasture, say the same. They came from cities across the country to pay the Palo Alto-based Bungee Adventure Company \$99 for one jump and a video record of the feat.

Todd Newton, 21, a Richmond, California, security guard, became the first recorded paying customer to make a bungee jump from a hot air balloon at daybreak on May 5.

"Are you scared?" ground supporters called up to him while the green, yellow, black, red and orange balloon ascended.

"Yeah," he said.

The group on the ground began chanting, "5, 4, 3, 2, 1."

"Yeah," he screamed, dangling triumphantly from the cord seconds later. "I'm a born bungee baby."

"We've got a satisfied yo-yo," said a beaming John Kockelman, 30, who found Bungee Adventure along with his brother,

Pete, 32.

After the lunge earthward, the jumper is lowered to the ground.

The Kockelmans, leaders among pioneer bungee jumpers, got into the sport in October 1987, doing it for fun in the beginning from bridges, buildings, giant cranes and redwood trees.

Bungee jumping shot spots also can be found in Australia, where a group has conducted some 23,000 jumps of bridges, and in France, where two thrill seekers fell to their deaths last year.

The Kockelmans went commercial in May 1988 and have supervised over 9,000 bungee jumps off bridges.

"We were looking for a better platform when we hit upon the idea of jumping from a hot air balloon," John said.

Pete obtained a pilot's licence and the brothers invested in a \$20,000 balloon, then added another \$10,000 in special reinforcing safety features needed for bungee jumping.

"No one else in the entire world is going hot air balloon bungee jumping commercially," John says.

With very little advertising, the Kockelman's balloon is already booked into July.

What does it feel like to leap from a hot air balloon?

My jump, known as "The Flight of the Pudge Eagle," found some answers.

I can report that first comes terror — during that finite moment as every nerve in your body screams, "Don't do this."

Seconds after the inexorable plunge toward hostile earth, terror gives way to the giggles as the jumper hits the end of his 43-foot-long (13m) bungee cord and it stretches, slowing that awful fall and doubling to 86 feet (26m) in length.

Next comes a whacking great rebound boing-g-g-g, and another, boing-g-g-g high above terra firma.

The giggles are nearly unstoppable as you bob up and down like a human yo-yo.

Brad Buller, 26, a carpenter from Santa Cruz, knows.

"I'm sick. No way I am doing this," he said.

But moments later Buller was in the specially reinforced balloon basket.

"Think ground rush, Brad," called out pilot Peter Kockelman — and Buller takes the plunge.

"Total helplessness," he said. "Wow, I want to go again. Oh yeah, yeah, major acceleration. This is so hot."

Cedric Mallinckrodt, 26, a Los Altos research engineer, eyes an arm-fraileer leaper and muttered, "That's sincerely stupid. Great. I mean that's my style. I'm

next."

Dawn Mikkelsen, 33, a marriage and family counsellor from San Jose became the first woman commercial bungee jumper from a hot air balloon.

"It was scary at first," she said. "I had trouble getting a good solid breath and then I was just bouncing off — it was so cool."

Steve Wylmz, 38, a Santa Monica, songwriter came along because, "it seemed a really edgy thing to do — pretty wild."

"We're gonna let you p-e-e-l off a n-i-c-e for some big air," Pete Kockelman shouted. Moments later Wylmz is bouncing at the end of the inch-thick (2.5m) bungee cord, laughing and giggling.

"Turbo," says Wylmz.

"I've wanted to bungee jump for a while," said John Martens, 24, an electrical engineer from Madison, Wisconsin.

"This is the only place I could find to do it. It's the most intense rush. It's short-lived but intense."

Stan Thomas, a software company salesman from Portola Valley said of his bungee jump: "You're 120 feet (40m) off the ground. Then you figure, 'I might as well jump, everybody's watching me.' I'd do it again in a second."

"Big air," shouted Pete Kockelman from above. "We're not joking."

Children join in Hyderabad fun



A FANCY dress competition took place last week at the Messilah Family Beach. More than 20 children participated in the contest, organised by the Hyderabad Deccan 400th Year Celebration Committee.

All the costumes were based on typical Hyderabad characters ranging from brides to rickshaw pullers and faqirs to flower sellers. Among those taking part were Mir Amjad Ali Khan Sada S. Saleem,

Zara S., Nausheen Sadeq, Mohammad Jaun Rizvi, Husna Shahnoor, Mohammad Ali Hussain, Mahreen Sadeq, Aisha Shahwar, Shivehnaz Khan, Naja Qamaruddin, Samir Qamaruddin, Noorunnissa Shan,

Ailiya Asghari, Wasem and Anees Shah, Looloo Baqar, Masouna Athar, Firdous Habeeb, M. Zaharuddin, Mustafa Abbas, Luluwa and Faisal Ali Khan, Muneeb M. Khan, Amer M. Khan, Ehtesham Ahmed.

Dear Junior Readers,

Kuwait has been really hot the past few days, do you know why it is so hot during summer?

Oddly enough the earth is about 3,000,000 miles nearer to the sun during winter than it is in summer. Yet it is much warmer in summer.

The reasons are not caused by different distances from the sun, but by the slant of the earth's axis as it moves around the sun. Scientists have learned that the equator of the earth is tilted 23 1/2 degrees to the path of the earth around the sun.

The difference in weather with the seasons occurs because the sun's rays are more slanting in winter and less slanting in

summer. Slanting rays produce less heat for two reasons. One is that they scatter their heat over a larger area of the earth's surface. The other is that they lose more of their heat in passing through the atmosphere.

Other factors, primarily water, land, and altitude, help regulate the climate. Water has a stabilizing effect and helps prevent

great changes in temperature. Land does not store up heat (the way the ocean does), so big temperature changes can take place over large land areas. Air grows less dense with altitude and cannot absorb as much heat as at sea level. So the higher the altitude, the lower the temperature.

Mandi.

Firsts and lasts

The last time cutting down a tree without permission in Britain was an offence punishable by hanging was in 1819.

Lady Astor, Britain's first woman MP, was born in America.

Alice Wells joined the Los Angeles police force in September, 1910 and in doing so became the world's first policewoman.

The planet Uranus was first named 'Georgium Sidum' after King George III of England.

The final words of the great scientist Albert Einstein are not known — the nurse who was attending him did not understand German and he spoke them in that language.

Albert Einstein, the brilliant atomic scientist, failed his university entrance exams at the first attempt.

The right to vote was first given to women in New Zealand. It was given in September, 1893, and the USA followed 20 years later.

The first British commercial television went on the air on 22nd September, 1935 and the first product advertised was Gibbs SR toothpaste.

The cat

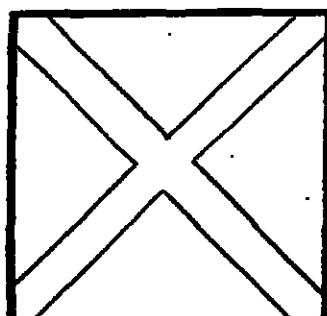
What interests that little face,
Upturned towards the sky,
Perhaps he'd like to be a bird,
And spread his wings and fly.
If he could fly up in that tree,
He'd really fancy that.
He could get a meal, for free
Because he is a cat
Dorothy Howell
U.K.

Did you know?

The red flag with the hammer and sickle symbols of the USSR was first used in 1917.

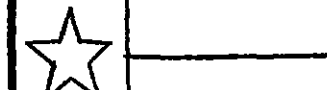
Scientists think that all the land on earth was first joined into one large mass called Pangaea. The continents we know today were created when Pangaea broke up.

United States

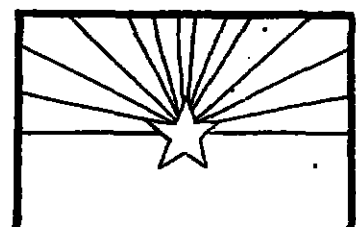


A _ _ _ M _

3 _ _ X _



5 M _ _ Y _ _



2 _ R _ Z _ _

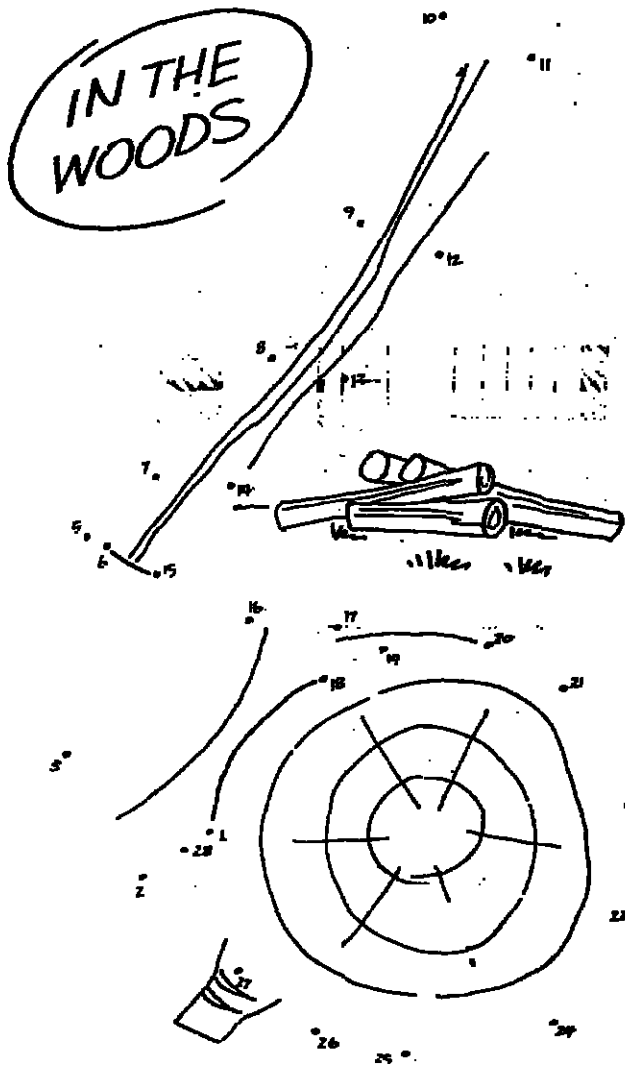


4 SOUTH _ _ O _ N



Here are flags from some of the states of America. Complete the words below them to find out which states they belong to.

Dot-to-dot



Wordsearch

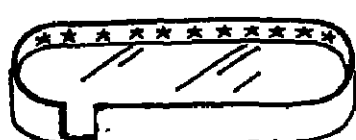
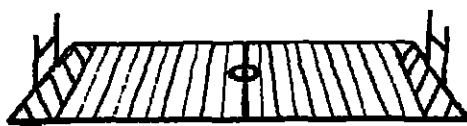
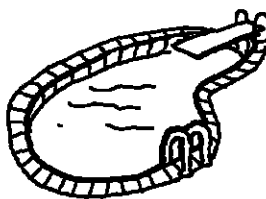
BALL
BEAN
BELL
CHURN
COLORED
CUP
DISH
DOCK
FAT
FINGERED
FISH
FLY

KNIFE
MILK
NUT
PALM
PLATE
SAUCE
SCOTCH
WORT

K K O O S S O N K H O O K
C C C A C A U U L L S N S
M M O O T T U T T I I I T
L L T T D D C C F F M M F
C C A A C C A A E E E I D
H H P P P N R U H C N I C
D D L L D D L L G G S G L
E E A A E E A A E H H I E
T T R W W R R R E L L B B
E E O O E E E O O O L E E
R R R O L D Y Y T T A A C
B T O O T O T T L N A U B
R R O O L L C O O F F F F

Where are they going?

Look at each picture on the left. Write the number of the picture at the bottom next to where the people are going.



Just for laughs!

The welfare worker was paying his first visit to a problem family in his area, and the door was opened by a small girl.

'What's a want?' she asked suspiciously.

'Is your mother in?' asked the welfare officer.

'Nah,' answered the moppet, 'she's in a home for nutters, ain't she?'

'Oh ... well, is your father in?'

'Nah. E's in the nick, ain't e?'

'Oh dear ... what about your brother?'

'E's in Borstal.'

'Good gracious. Is there a big sister looking after you, then?'

'She was until last week but now she's at Oxford University.'

'My Dad,' said the vain girl loftily, 'says that when I grow up I'll be a raving beauty.'

'Why?' asked her catty friend, 'is he going to put you in a lunatic asylum?'

'Certainly not! He says I'm sure to have lots of men at my feet.'

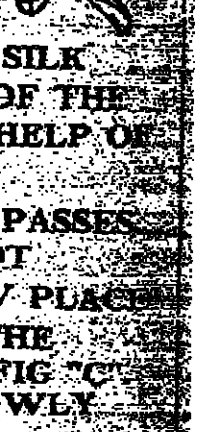
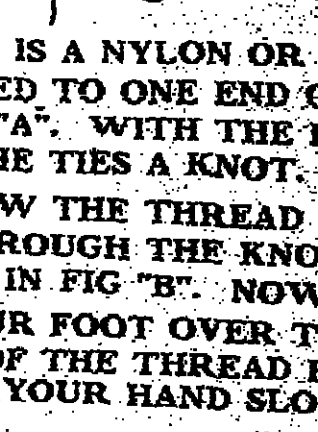
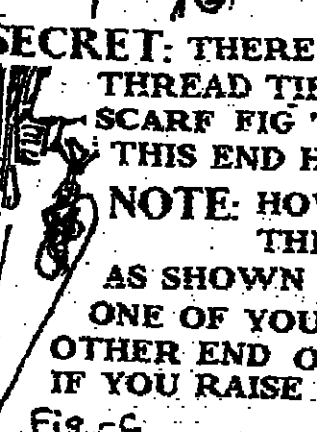
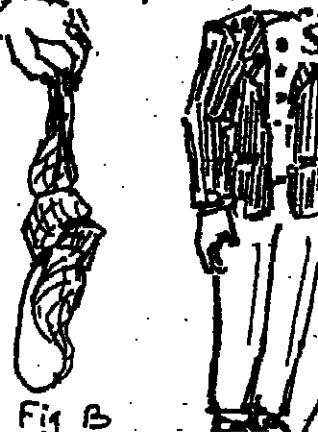
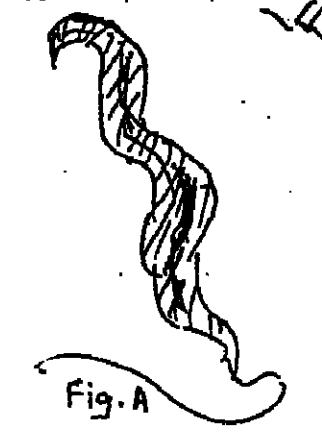
'Very likely — chiropodists!'

SPOOKY HANKY PANKY

THE MAGICIAN TIES A SIMPLE KNOT TO A LADIES SCARF AND HOLDS IT BY ONE END. THE LOWER END OF THE SCARF SLOWLY BEGINS TO RISE UPWARD IN THE MOST UNNATURAL WAY AND IT GOES BACK THROUGH THE KNOT AND RELEASES THE SCARF.

MARCO

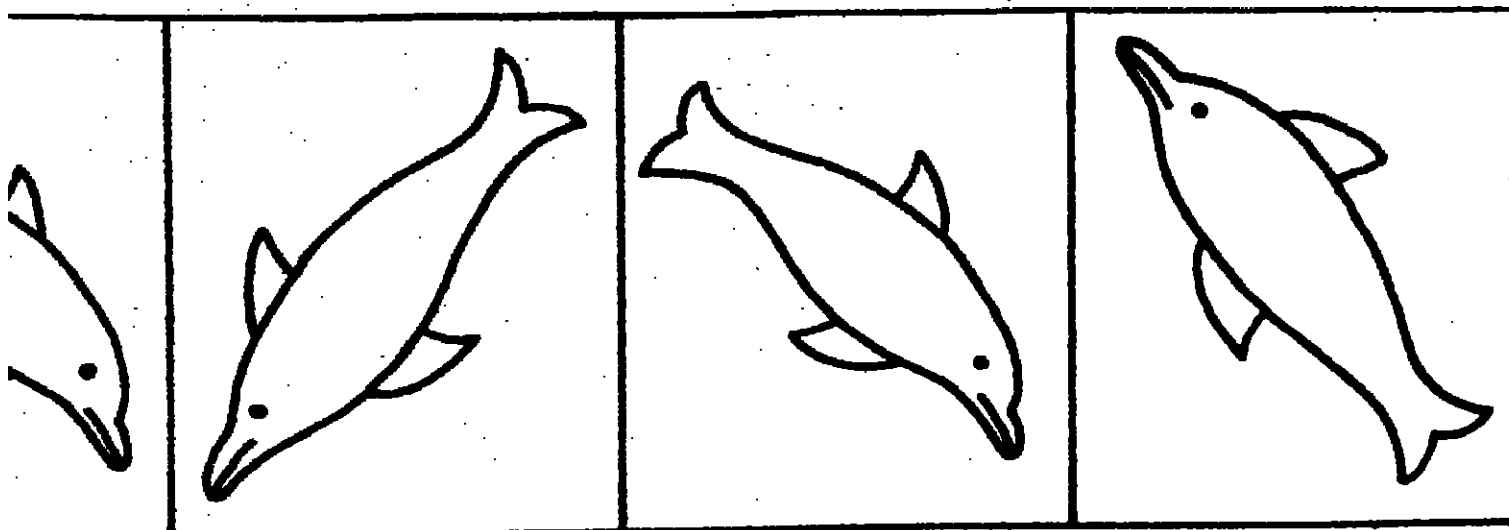
THE MAGICIAN
403708, GOA, INDIA.



THE KNOTTED SCARF RISES AND WILL AUTOMATICALLY RELEASE THE KNOT.
NOTE: THE THREAD MUST BE SUCH THAT IT IS NOT VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE.

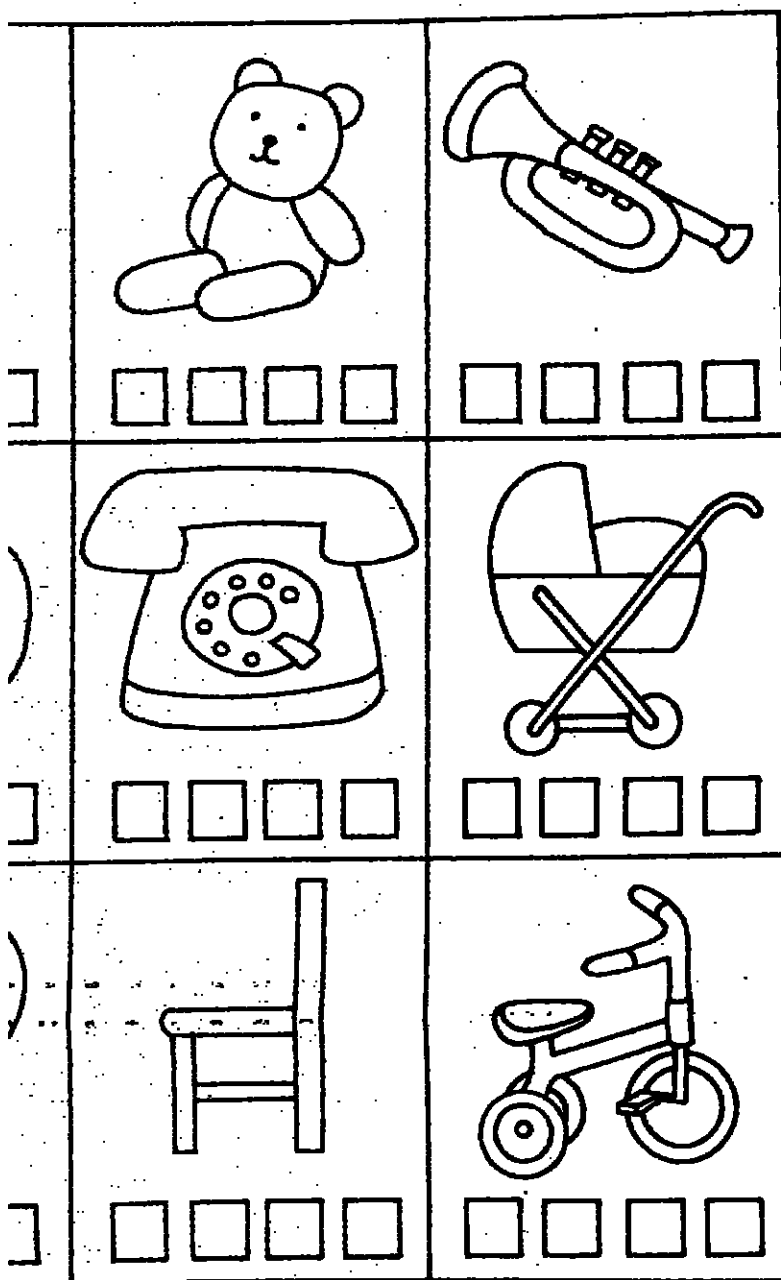
ne

Colour in the dolphins which are exactly the same



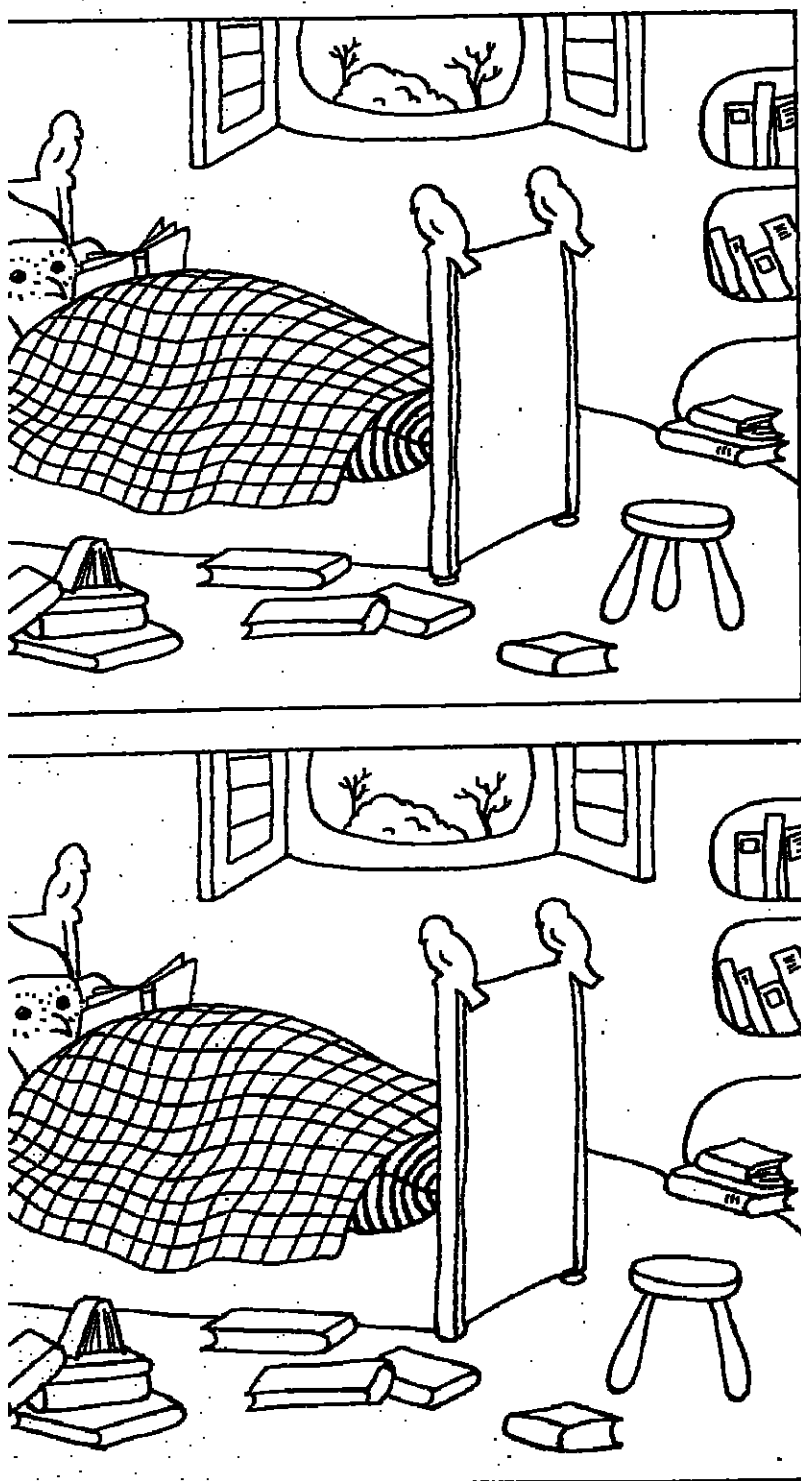
Syllables

of each item. Colour in as many boxes as there
ord.



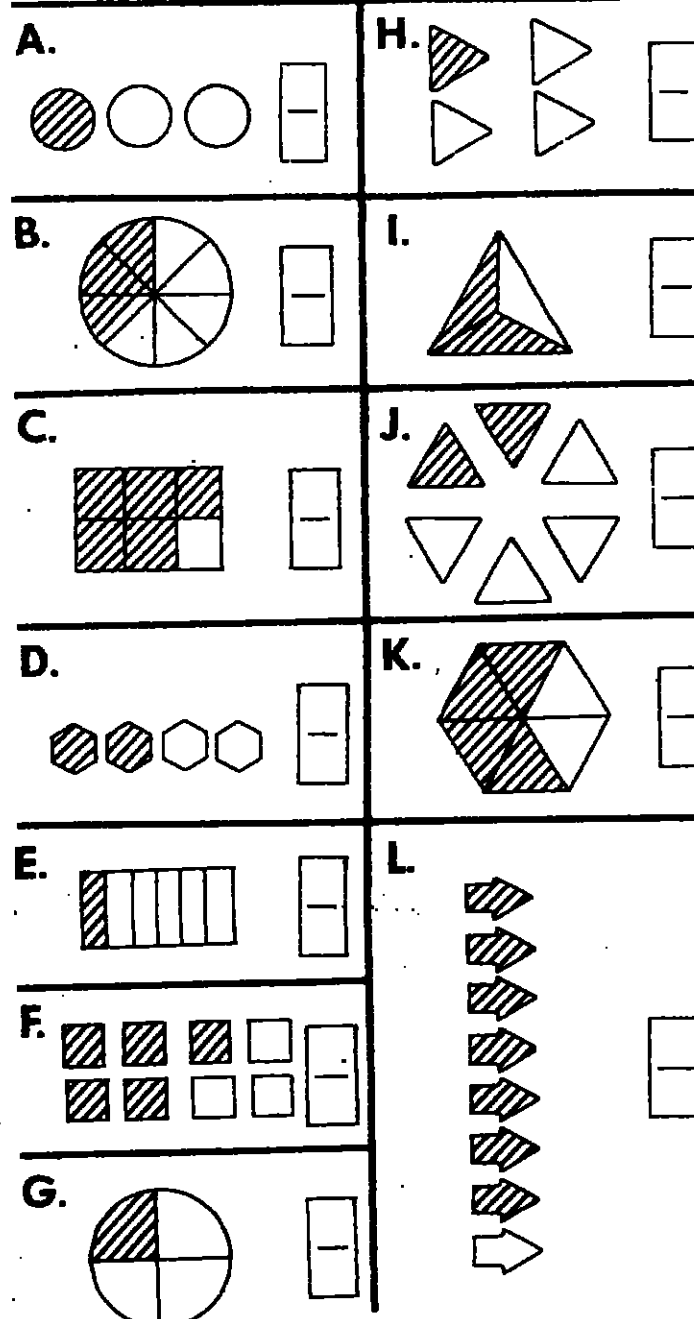
ot the difference

a six differences in the bottom picture.



Write the fraction beside each
drawing.

Example:



Roger, Lost and Found are hiding from Barney
Can you see them?



Happy birthday



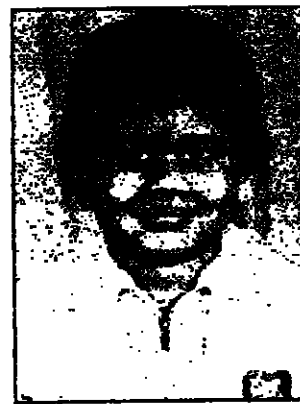
Hibna Mirza celebrated her 10th birthday, in Arby's, with her friends recently.



Farozan Amjad turned 11 on May 20.



Mandira Jain turned 9 on May 21.



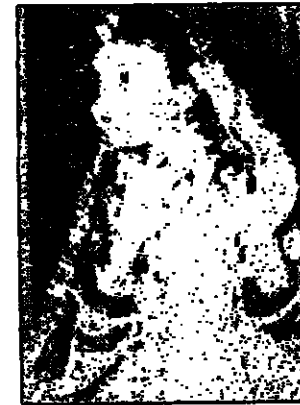
Alston Pinto turned 4 on May 21.



Usama Nasir turns 11 today May 22.



John Clement Misquith turns 15 on May 23.

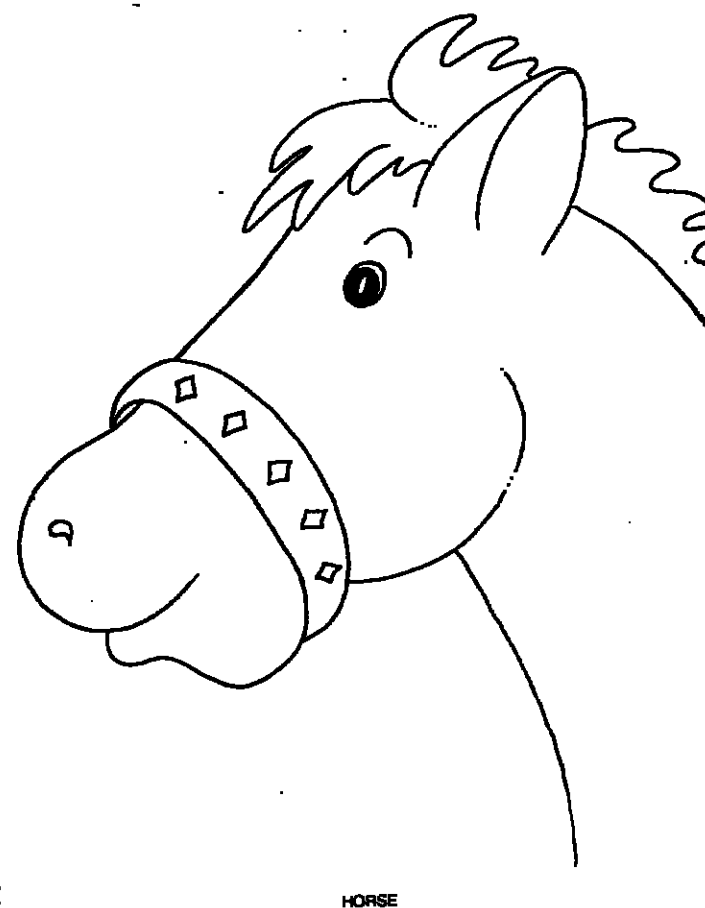


Beerta Sethi turned 7 on May 18.

A lie

One lie is like a black dot.
Each time you tell another,
To cover up the other,
The dot becomes bigger than before.
But where is this black dot?
Is it deep inside you?
Is it in your soul?
By Tracey Lee Pacheco
12 years
N.E.S.

Colouring time



HORSE

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name:

Date of birth:

School:

Telephone:
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recent
picture
(4x6)

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Junior Times
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Kuwait

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2406593

REQUIRED

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Must be Filipino, Indian or Sri Lankan. Must have transferable residences and a release letter from the sponsor.

Personal interviews, call Tel. 2635369
Hawalli, Al Muthanna Bldg., 2nd floor, apartment 5.

REQUIRED

a Storekeeper

Call Tel. 4830927, 4830928

REQUIRED

Full/part-time, an experienced technician
for servicing - radios, tape-recorders, mixers, cameras, emergency lantern etc.
Call - 2461688, 2461212

ACCOMMODATION

For Rent

SURRA, Block 5, Villa. Rent KD750 (fixed). Tel. 2426942, 9 am - 12 noon.

(AT3-52730-3)

JABRIYA on the main road CAC new deluxe furnished 2 storey villa with basement. Suitable for European embassy or executive. Rent KD1,500 (fixed). Tel. 2453883 or 5339174.

(AT2-52711-3)

SALWA, Area 12, near Messilah Beach Hotel. Ground floor of a large deluxe villa, huge living room 13m x 7m, 4 bedrooms with closets, 3 large bathrooms, beautiful garden in and outside. Rent KD520. Tel. 2469617-8, 4743485, 3620172. Ask for Salmah or Nasser.

(AT6-52680-6)

Available

SALWA. Single room with AC and tele facilities. Tel. Mr. Faiz, 5626749.

(AT2-52709-3)

SALMIYA. Amman Street on the main road. Furnished accommodation for 4 Muslim bachelors. Rent KD35 each. Tel. 5616941 after 3 pm.

(AT2-52716-2)

RUMATHIYA, near the Passport Office. A fully furnished room available with water/electricity, kitchen and tele. Facilities for a single person (Indian). Tel. 5613895 after 2 pm.

(AT4-52608-3)

KUWAIT City, Murgab, near Masjid Abdulla Mubarak and Burhani Market, sharing accommodation for Dawoodi Bohra couple only. Tel. 2411641.

(AT4-52752-3)

ONE room for two bachelors to share with a Goan couple in Fahd Al Salem Street near Kentucky Chicken Restaurant. Tel. 2413439 between 11.30 am and 1.30 pm.

(AT4-52754-2)

SHARING accommodation for a working lady in Sharq near Kuwait Fisheries from June, 1990. Preferably Indian. Tel. 2421834 after 5 pm.

(AT4-52753-3)

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street, Building No. 131, Flat No. 12 (ground floor). One room for a couple or 2 working ladies to share with a family (three members). Rent KD55. Tel. Mr. Kumar, 5625811, 5625789, (7 am - 4 pm).

(AT2-52702-3)

REQUIRED

An agricultural company requires:
Agricultural workers
for morning duty only.

Call Tel. 4732121, 2655302
from 4.30 - 8.30 pm

VILLA FOR RENT

Mishrif, for 2 families
GROUND FLOOR — 3 bedrooms, saloon, sitting room, kitchen, 2 baths.
FIRST FLOOR — 3 bedrooms, saloon, sitting room, kitchen, 2 baths, CAC. Also garden, garage and servant's quarters. KD600.
Al Joudi Real Estate
Tel. 2452199
2452198

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PART-TIME SALESMAN
for a manufacturing company, producing radiator coolant with own delivery vehicle.

Attractive commission
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ABDUL REHMAN
TEL: 4736740
4747623 - 4734991

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For details contact:
Tel. 4788079 Kuwait
(9 am - 5 pm)

REQUIRED

first-class female
Filipino
tailors

Should know cutting, design and tailoring. Must have transferable residence. Salary according to qualification.
For inquiries call Tel. 2432174/2432074, Huda Al Mousallam

This is our price!



Abdul Aziz Saud Al Babbain
Mishari & Katrish Bldg. Tel. 2411782/2410419

For your advertisement in ARAB TIMES
Please contact
Advertising Department

Tel: 4816326
4816327

SALMIYA, opp. Indian School (K.G. building). One room with CAC, water, electricity and kitchen facilities, for a couple or working ladies to share with a family from 1st June. Rent KD.65. Tel. 5630886.

(AT4-52745-3)

OMARIYA, near Airport Road. One room for Indian or Pakistani family only. Rent KD50, inclusive of electricity and water. Tel. Mahmood, 4736004.

(AT2-52722-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the UTC. 1 room for 1 Indian bachelor in 2br bachelor apt. Rent KD55. Tel. 4714911, ext. 35, from 7.00 am - 5.30 pm.

(AT2-52715-3)

FOR SALE

Boats

YACHT, Westerley GK 24, 24 ft in length, with sails, instruments, and outboard engine, in excellent condition. Tel. 5615294, after 7 pm.

(AT2-52693-3)

Miscellaneous

MOTORBIKE for sale, Kawasaki 7502-LTD. Only 14,000 kms. very good condition. Price KD500. Tel. Mr. Christian, 2455550 ext. 943-967, 9 am - 6 pm.

(AT4-52728-3)

LEAVING Kuwait. Stag bedroom furniture, large sofa set, Ikea double base kitchen units with worktop, vacuum cleaner. Tel. Phil, 4347200 ext 250, Res 5659464.

(AT3-52732-3)

SOFA 2+3+2 tables, Ikea shelves, dining table and 10 chairs all beechwood, billiard table, washing machine, TV, VCR, bicycle and others. Surra, Area 2, Street 13, House 32, from 4-8 pm.

(AT3-52733-3)

L-SHAPED bar and stools. 7 1/2 x 4 1/2 foot rest. nice design. delivery arranged, offers. Tel. Mr. Edward 4806984.

(AT4-52756-2)

GENERAL air-conditioners - two 25000, one 18000 BTU. European bed set, dining table, bunkers beds. American wall unit, 4 pieces sofa set, carpets. All are in very good condition at reasonable prices. Tel. 4749616.

(AT2-52700-3)

RE-SALE, Thursday May 24, Fahad Sultan Complex (Abu Hafsa across from Gazette Club) Time: 8 am - 12 noon. Household items, ladies clothes (size 12), shoes size (7-1/2) and more bargains, 1/2 off, reduced prices. Tel. 3721831, after 8 pm or answering machine.

(AT3-52720-4)

Cars

PONTIAC 6000, '82 with many new parts in excellent condition. Price negotiable. Tel. 5730084.

(AT2-52694-3)

GALANT Super Saloon, 1988 in excellent condition, automatic, powersteering AC, overdrive etc. One owner leaving Kuwait. KD 1,450 ono. Contact Mr. Tony 2435285 day, 5657000 room 741 evening.

(AT4-52751-3)

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2451489 - 2451478
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The All Real Estate

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An advertising establishment requires:

Advertisement technicians for shops and companies, electrician/painter/blacksmith. Must have transferable residence

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Who has five years' experience in industrial equipments. (oil sectors, MEW, PIC). Must have a driving licence. Transferable visa No. 18. Please contact 2407181/2460679
Timings: 8 am to 1 pm
4 pm to 8 pm

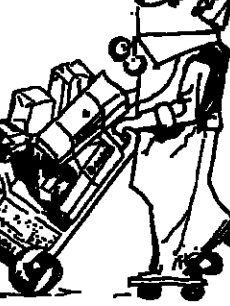
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Fahsah 3625468/8 - Sharq 2460072/3
Murgab 2412880/2418881

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BIDDA: New seaside villas - 4 beds, gdn, maid's room. KD650
SALWA: 5 new flats in same bldg. - 3 beds, fitted wardrobes. KD375 incl E & W
2 adjoining villas each for two families. KD500
Flat. 3 beds with swimming pool. KD375 incl E & W
Villa - 4 beds, mulhaq, garden. KD800
Villa - 5 beds, mulhaq, garden. KD900
SURRA: Ground floor & basement of new villa. 4 beds, very beautiful kitchen. KD700
JABRIYA: Top half of villa. European family on ground floor. 3 beds. KD400
MESSILAH: Villa. 3 beds, garden, s. pool. KD550 incl E & W
MISHREF: Extremely beautiful villa with swimming pool, marble floors, big reception areas, six beds. Servant's qtrs. modern kitchen with breakfast bar. KD1,250
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YARMOUK: Villa. Two storeys, 2 guest bedrooms down & 4 beds up. Beautiful kitchen fitted with cooker & dishwasher. Carpets, curtains & indoor swimming pool. Garden & mulhaq. KD900

These are just a few of the properties we have available. Please contact us for an appointment to view, or let us know your requirements.
Ring Ken Winston on Tel. Nos. 5740256/7 or 5625316.

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HOLIDAY INN BOWLING ALLEY
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OPEN TO ANYONE
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Deadline for Entry
May 23, 1990

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ONE maid and one housekeeper (Filipino) required. Must speak English. Tel. 2446954.

(AT4-52723-3)

MAID required Sri Lankan or Filipino. Tel. 5728313, 5717263. (AT1-52654-4)

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(AT4-52749-2)

REQUIRED from Hawalli behind Rihab Complex to Al-Othman Street, Hawalli, Nagra. Office hours: 9.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 4.00 - 8.00 pm. Tel. 2665411/422 (Off. Res. 2647521, after 8.00 pm.

(AT2-52708-3)

AVAILABLE from Farwaniya and old Kheitan to city at 8 am, 9.15 am and 12.30 noon. Evening from city to Farwaniya at 1 pm, 3.30 pm, 5 pm, 7.30 pm. Tel. 2412966 Tele. Stanley, 11.30 am - 12.30 pm and 7 - 7.30 pm.

(AT3-52734-3)

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INTERESTED

We are looking for a European male/female, who thinks he/she can be a real estate broker.

We offer flexible working hours, attractive commission and salary.

You must have a local driving licence and a car. Spoken Arabic an advantage but not necessary.

For appointments
Call Tel. 5744017-5744018

FOR RENT

Villas and part-villas

Villa, one floor + swimming pool + sala in sala area. KD. 850
Villa, 2 floors and annex + swimming pool in Jabriya. KD. 900
Villa, 2 floors and annex in Mishref. KD. 700
Villa, 2 floors with mulhaq in Yarmouk area. KD. 600
Villa, 1 floor on the sea in Salwa. KD. 550
Villa, 2 floors, a basement and annex in Yarmouk and Qurtaba. KD. 1,200

Call tel. 2409455 Basse
Tel. 2404946 Abdul Jalil

FOR SALE

2000 pcs of polythene fibre woven jumbo bags of 1 ton capacity for immediate sale. Interested parties may send the offer in a sealed envelope the latest by 5th June to:

DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. BOX: 26996 SAFAT
13190 SAFAT - KUWAIT
For inquiries contact
Tel Nos: 3260455/6 - 3262252

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2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

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Section heading

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Pistons beat Bulls in conference finals opener

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, May 21. (AP) Joe Dumars scored 18 third-quarter points and Detroit's tenacious defense held Michael Jordan to eight second-half points as the defending National Basketball Association champion Pistons beat the Bulls 86-77 yesterday in the first game of the Eastern Conference finals.

The best-of 7 series continues tomorrow night at the palace, then shifts to Chicago stadium for afternoon games Saturday and Monday.

Dumars, the Most Valuable Player in last year's championship series when the Pistons swept the Los Angeles Lakers for

their first League title, finished with 27 points.

Jordan, who had averaged 40.3 points in the Bulls' first nine playoff games, scored a game-high 34 points — but 26 game in the first half, when Chicago led 43-39.

The Pistons, meeting Chicago for the

second straight year in the conference finals, are 23-6 against the Bulls over the past three years, including the playoffs. Last year, they eliminated Chicago in six games.

Over the past two seasons, Detroit has held playoff opponents to less than 100 points in 23 of their last 26 games.

Barrios wins for 4th time

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21. (AP) Mexico native Arturo Barrios broke the record to win the Bay to Breakers race for the fourth year in a row yesterday, leading a pack of 70,000 wet racers, a few of whom ran in the nude despite a chilly drizzle.

Barrios finished in 34:31.2, beating the record set in 1986 by Utah runner Ed Eyestone. John Doherty, a native of Ireland who lives in Rhode Island, followed with 34:38.7.

British-born Jill Hunter was the top woman finisher, with a time of 39:19.

Both winners live in Boulder, Colorado.

Despite the record-breaking win, Barrios said rain made the running difficult.

Soviet runner Irena Seljarenko was the first woman to cross the finish line in yesterday's 31st annual Revco-Cleveland marathon, but race officials disqualified her for receiving too much assistance from a teammate during the race.

Because of the disqualification, another Soviet runner, Valentina Lounegova, was awarded first place, in a time of two hours, 44 minutes and 23 seconds. She was about three minutes behind Seljarenko.

In the men's marathon, Hilemon Lopez of Mexico surged with three miles (4.8 kilometers) left to beat Mokhameth Nasipov of the Soviet Union and win his first major marathon in 2:15:12.

Nasipov, who could not respond to Lopez's final surge, finished in 2:15:40.

Kerry's Yobes Ondieki made short work of a world class field in the men's 10-kilometer run, winning in 28:32.

Nets get first pick in draft

NEW YORK, May 21. (Reuters) The New Jersey Nets, the worst team in the National Basketball Association, yesterday won the League's annual lottery for the right to make the first selection in next month's amateur draft.

The 1990 lottery, held during half-time of a nationally telecast NBA playoff game, was expanded from seven teams to include all 11 that failed to qualify for post-season play.

For the first time however, the six-year-old lottery was weighted in favour of the teams with the worst records, so the Nets with their dismal 17-65 record had the best chance of winning.

The Seattle SuperSonics earned the second pick and the Miami Heat will select third in the June 27th draft in which Syracuse University forward Derrick Coleman is considered a possible first choice.

No clear-cut number one pick has emerged from this year's collegiate crop and the Nets may consider trading the pick for a proven talent.

Barnes sets world record

Kingdom edges Campbell



Kingdom: just managed to beat Campbell

LOS ANGELES, May 21. (Reuters) American Randy Barnes stole the show at the Los Angeles Invitational Athletics Meeting when he set a world shot record of 23.12 metres with a less-than-perfect throw yesterday.

"Technically it was not a perfect throw. The release did not feel solid," Barnes said of his second throw of the day.

But the throw was good enough to break East German Ulf Timmermann's two-year-old mark of 23.06 metres and bring the crowd of 5,600 to their feet.

"I knew I was ready this time. My first throw was the best opening I ever had," said the 23-year-old Barnes, a silver medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Barnes, who collected a \$50,000 bonus for setting a world record, has now set his sights even farther.

"Now that I have this record, 80 feet (24.3m) seems a whole lot more believable to me," said Barnes, who also holds the world indoor mark of 22.66 metres.

In other events overshadowed by Barnes' world record, double Olympic champion Roger Kingdom took the lead late in 110-metre hurdles and held on to edge

Tonie Campbell in 13.37 seconds. Campbell clocked 13.47 and Arthur Blake was third in 13.57.

"I'm still a little off my form, but I feel very relaxed," Kingdom said.

Danny Everett, a bronze medalist at the Seoul Olympics, turned in the second fastest 400 metres in the world this year to win the event in 44.72 seconds.

Jamaica's Bert Cameron was second in 45.67 and Otis Dixon clocked 47.97 for third.

"It was the fastest opening 400 of my career," Everett said.

Pattise Plummer easily won the sluggish women's mile by more than four seconds with a time of 4:29.54.

The race was expected to be far more competitive with the presence of world record holder Paula Ivan of Romania.

But Ivan turned in one of the most disappointing performances of the meeting as she trailed badly throughout the race and finished a distant fifth at 4:38.32.

Joe Falcon finished a second ahead of US record holder Steve Scott to take the men's mile in 3:56.22. Doug Padilla was third in 3:57.42.

American riders dominate

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy, May 21. (AP) Wayne Rainey led a US domination of the Italian Grand Prix motorcycle race yesterday, winning the 500-cc division while John Kocinski took the 250-cc class.

Rainey, 29, from Los Angeles, won aboard his Japanese-made Yamaha, finishing 2.1 seconds ahead of Kevin Schwantz, also of the United States.

Yesterday's victory in this Adriatic Sea resort, his third championship title this year out of four races, gave Rainey 77 points overall and a comfortable 27-point lead over former world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia.

Gardner, who competed despite a cracked rib, finished fourth yesterday on a Honda.

Schwantz, a 25-year-old from Paige, Texas, moved into third place in the overall standings with 47 points.

Both Rainey and Schwantz, who had led a boycott of the Italian Grand Prix last year to protest dangerous conditions at the Misano track, praised the Italian organizers, who stopped the 500-cc race after 24 laps following a sudden rain shower.

"I was prepared to stop myself if race officials did not stop us," said Rainey, who led Schwantz by 2.5

seconds when the race was suspended.

After changing tires, the riders completed the remaining 36 laps. Schwantz, riding a Suzuki, finished ahead of Rainey, but Rainey ended with a better aggregate time of 46 minutes, 21.15 seconds.

"It's another step forward toward the title," said Rainey.

Eddie Lawson, current and four-time world champion from the United States, did not compete in Misano and may also miss the next championship round in West Germany. Lawson, a Yamaha teammate of Rainey's, fractured his foot in the season opener at Suzuka, Japan, in March.

Kocinski rode his Yamaha to an unchallenged victory in the 250-cc after his toughest rival, Italy's Luca Cadalora, was stopped by an engine problem on the fourth lap.

Kocinski, 22, who won his third consecutive championship event, took over first place in the overall standings with 62 points, replacing Cadalora.

"Luca still can fight back, but I am in a better position after today's victory," said Kocinski, who rides full time for the team of his mentor Kenny Roberts.

Crenshaw hits last round 66 for victory

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 21. (Reuters) Ben Crenshaw said he "played like a new man," this week after he won the \$1 million Colonial Golf Tournament by three strokes yesterday.

Crenshaw, winless since the spring of 1988, was in complete control on the Colonial Country Club course for the tournament's final 18 holes. He took charge with a blazing 5-under-par 30 on the outgoing nine and never looked back.

Crenshaw, who won here in 1977, shot a 66 for the day and finished at 8-under-par 272 to earn \$180,000.

John Mahaffey, Corey Pavin and Zimbabwe's Nick Price tied for second place at 5-under-par 275, while Curtis Strange and Mike Hulbert, who fired a final round 63, finished four strokes back at 276.

Gene Sauers, who finished five strokes back of Crenshaw, shot the low round of the day as he tied the course record with an 8-under-par 63.

Strange, who was tied with Crenshaw when the round started, birdied the first hole. After consecutive bogeys on two and three, however, the US Open champion never managed to get his game back under control.

Crenshaw had a marvellous day with his putter as he recorded five birdies over the first nine holes. Two of his birdie putts were more than 30 feet.

Bruins defeat Oilers

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 21. (Reuters) The Boston Bruins came up with two first period goals and held on to beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 yesterday to give Boston their first victory of the 1990 Stanley Cup finals.

The Bruins, who dropped the first two games at home, trail the Oilers two games to one.

John Byrne, making his final series debut, gave Boston a jump start when he baited home the rebound of a 30-foot backhand by Cam Neely just 10 seconds into the first period.

The goal, which tied a Stanley Cup finals record for the fastest score from the start of a game, helped the Bruins erase the memory of their 7-2 second game loss and their heartbreaking triple overtime defeat in game 1.

Boston is bidding to become only the fourth team in the history of the Stanley Cup finals to come back from a 2-0 deficit.

Edmonton, held to 15 shots on goal in the first two periods, got on track in the third when they fired 14 shots at former team-mate Andy Moog in the Boston goal.

Yachtsman rescued

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters) A round-the-world yachtman was rescued by helicopter more than 500 miles off Britain's southwest coast yesterday after showing signs of rejecting a kidney transplant, organisers said.

Andrew Didsdall, a competitor in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race, was suffering from back injuries as well as apparent kidney problems following a transplant four years ago.

He was winched aboard a Royal Air Force Sea King helicopter which was to take him to a hospital in Cork, southern Ireland after stopping to refuel on a naval auxiliary ship in the Atlantic.

Sulayem prepares for Acropolis Rally



Sulayem (right) and Morgan celebrate their victory in Jordan

AFTER his convincing victory in the Jordan International Rally, Mohammed bin Sulayem is now preparing for one of the toughest events on the World Championship circuit.

Driving his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4 and accompanied by Irish co-driver Roman Morgan, the Middle East champion will take part in the famous 'Acropolis Rally' in Greece from June 3 to 6.

Sulayem faces one of the sternest tests of his career against most of the world's leading drivers, including reigning world champion Miki Biasion of Italy and his Lancia team-mate, Frenchman Didier Auriol, the current championship leader.

Relishing the challenge, however, the UAE star said: "The Acropolis Rally is one of the most demanding in the world, and I am looking forward to competing against so many great drivers."

"All the top Lancia, Toyota and Peugeot World Championship teams will be there, which means that I will probably be lower down the starting order than in any other rally I've entered."

"It will be up to me to prove that I can compete at the top level, and I'll be aiming to move up the field from the start and finish as high as possible."

Shortened

Starting from the ancient ruins of the Acropolis in Athens, the rally has been shortened in recent years, but the event is still a punishing one for the drivers and their cars.

This year, a 2,034-km route contains 48 special stages — seven on the first day, 11 on day two, 17 on the third day and 13 on the final leg which finishes in the capital.

Traditionally, the event leaves a trail of casualties strewn across the Greek countryside, and completing the route will be regarded as a triumph for most of the starters in a line-up of more than 100 cars.

Sulayem, however, goes to Greece with his confidence high after a victory in Jordan which had seemed unlikely in view of a succession of problems encountered by the Winston Toyota Team Middle East.

By winning for the fourth time in the Hashemite Kingdom he extended his lead in this year's Middle East Championship to 30 points and is well on course for his fourth successive regional title.

Middle East Drivers' Championship, positions after two rounds: 1. Mohammed bin Sulayem 56pts; 2. Mazen Dajani (Jordan) 26 pts; 3. Tony Georgiou (Oman) 23 pts; 4. Suhail Khalifa (UAE) 22 pts.

Trevino wins first senior tournament

HOUSTON, May 21. (AP) Lee Trevino shot a 3-under-par 69 yesterday for a tournament record 13-under-par 203 total and a six-stroke victory in the Doug Sanders Kingwood Celebrity Classic.

The victory was Trevino's fourth in eight tournaments this year, his first on the PGA Senior Tour.

Trevino was the wire-to-wire leader and also set the 36-hole tournament record with 134 over the 6,564-yard, par-72 Deerwood County Club.

Trevino birdied the final three holes to shake off runner-up Gary Player, whose tournament-best 7-under 65 in the final round had pulled him within three strokes of the lead.

Player, who started the final round 10 strokes behind Trevino, closed to within three after making a birdie on No. 16.

Player, playing two groups ahead of Trevino, went to seven under with birdies on 14, 15 and 16 while Trevino bogeyed 15 to go 10 under.

Left-hander Bob Charles of New Zealand, who came into the final round in second four strokes behind Trevino, finished third at six under with the final-round 72.



Mario Silva of Portugal raises his arms in victory after winning the men's 1,500 metres at the Sao Paulo meet. (Reuters wirephoto)

Americans dominate GP meet

SAO PAULO, Brazil, May 21. (Reuters) Americans dominated the opening Grand Prix meeting of the outdoor athletics season yesterday with Danny Harris leading the way with a blazing victory in the 400-metres hurdles.

Harris turned in the fastest 400-metre hurdles in the world this year with his 48.13 second victory at Sao Paulo's Ibirapuera Stadium.

Harris was more than a full second faster than compatriot Kevin Young who was second in 49.23, well ahead of Senegal's Olympic silver medalist Amadou Dia Ba, who finished seventh in 50.70.

Cuban athletes, who arrived only an hour before the meeting after flying all night, managed two victories. Roberto Hernandez won the 400 metres in 45.44 seconds and Isel Lopes took the women's javelin with a 65-48-metre throw.

But Javier Sotomayor, the world's top high jumper, came up three centimetres short of American winner Hollis Conway's 2.33 jump. Sotomayor's best jump of 2.30 metres left him tied for second with American Jerome Carter.

And Cuban track star Ana Quirot, rated number one in the world in the women's 400 metres, finished a disappointing fifth with a time of 51.82 seconds.

American Rochelle Stevens won



Brahim Boutayeb

the event in 51.01, beating Brazilian Maria Magnolia Figueiredo, whose 51.11 seconds bettered her previous south

American record of 51.32 seconds.

Local fans got a thrill when 1984 Olympic 800 metres champion Joaquim Cruz won the event in 1:46.32 accompanied by enthusiastic shouts of 'Brazil, Brazil' from the partisan crowd of 17,000.

American athletes also demonstrated their dominance of the sprints.

Mark Witherspoon won the men's 100 metres in 10.44 seconds, beating Nigeria's Chidi Imoh who clocked 10.52.

Witherspoon's countryman Floyd Heard took the 200 metres in 20.51 to beat local favourite Robson Caetano da Silva, who clocked 20.71.

American Danette Young won the women's 100 metres and 200 metres in 11.54 seconds and 23.02 seconds, respectively and her compatriot Lavona Martin took the women's 100 metres hurdles in 13.16.

The Soviet Union's Oleg Protchenko came up with the best triple jump of the year. He won with a leap of 17.58 metres to beat the 17.07 of countryman Nikolai Musiyenko. Cuban Lazaro Belancourt was third at 16.94.

Olympic 5,000-metres champion Brahim Boutayeb of Morocco pulled ahead of American Sidney Maree on the final lap to win the event in 13:47.45. Maree finished second in 13:49.35.

Rarick holds off Daniel

HIGH POINT, North Carolina, May 21. (Reuters) Cindy Rarick maintained the lead throughout yesterday final round to win the \$400,000 Pat Bradley International with 25 points.

Rarick, who earned \$60,000 for her fourth career title, held off a challenge from Beth Daniel with a four-birdie, two bogey round to earn a one-point victory

under the modified stableford scoring system where points are awarded for eagles and birdies and subtracted for bogeys.

Daniel, who picked up 10 points on Sunday for a 72-hole total of 24, finished second, one point ahead of Hollis Stacy and two in front of Sherri Steinhauer, who began the round in second place and finished alone in fourth.

Jaguar clinch top two spots at Silverstone

SILVERSTONE, England, May 21. (Reuters) Jaguar roared back in style with a one-two finish in the third round of the World Sportscar Championship in front of their home crowd at Silverstone yesterday.

After a year in the wilderness struggling to perfect their new turbo cars, the 1988 world champions beat arch-rivals Mercedes, who failed to finish for the first time this season.

Mercedes, who had one car disqualified before the race for a technical infringement and another break down, still lead the championship with 18 points to Jaguar's 13.

Martin Brundle of Britain drove a faultless race in the victorious Jaguar and led the 101-lap race from mid-distance after the Mercedes of Frenchman Jean-Louis Schlesser and Italy's Mauro Baldi suffered a broken camshaft-drive on the 40th lap in the team's first major car failure in almost two years.

The second Jaguar of Britain's Andy Wallace and Dutchman Jan Lammers took second place.

Mercedes' early exit left the way open for Jaguar and Nissan to fight out the 470 kms race and although the Japanese team put up a strong challenge, Brundle and co-driver Frenchman Alain Ferte held them off.

Britons Julian Bailey and Kenny Acheson pushed Jaguar for 92 laps before their Nissan's rear suspension collapsed.

The second Nissan, driven by Briton Mark Blundell and Italian Gianfranco Brancatelli, took up the challenge but ran out of fuel and despite crossing the finish line on the starter motor was excluded for taking too long to complete its final lap.



President George Bush (right) shakes hands with Trevino after arriving at the Deerwood County Club to play in the tournament. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball results

NEW YORK, May 21. (Reuters): Results of the Major League baseball games played yesterday:

American League	
Minn Twins	5 Boston
Baltimore	4 Texas
Seattle	8 Cleveland
Toronto	5 California
Detroit	5 Chicago
Milwaukee	5 Oakland
Kansas City	4 Yankees
National League	
St. Louis	6 Cincinnati
Chicago	5 Houston
Montreal Exp	6 San Francisco
Los Angeles	6 Philadelphia
San Diego	3 N.Y. Mets
Atlanta	13 Pittsburgh

World tennis

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 21. (Reuters): Results of Group One matches at the World Team Cup round-robin tennis tournament today (each match is played over the best of three rubbers): West Germany v Soviet Union (West German names first): Carl Uwe Steeb beat Alexander Volkov 7-5, 7-5; Boris Becker beat Andrei Cherkasov 6-4, 6-3. West Germany took a 2-0 winning lead.

Spain v US (Spanish names first): Jordi Arrese beat Brad Gilbert 7-5, 7-5; Spain lead 1-0.

Lopez triumphs

RENO, Nevada, May 21. (AP): Tony Lopez, spurred on by a partisan crowd, regained the International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title yesterday with the closest of split decisions over Juan "John John" Molina.

Biggest defection

WELLINGTON, May 21. (Reuters): All Black John Chalghaff said today that he had signed for British Rugby League side Leeds in probably the biggest defection in the history of New Zealand Rugby Union.

Wales win

CARDIFF, Wales, May 21. (AP): Stiker Dean Saunders scored in the 10th minute yesterday, giving Wales a 1-0 victory over punches Costa Rica for its first victory in 11 contests.

Top seeds

PARIS, May 21. (AP): Stefan Edberg and Wimbledon champion Boris Becker will be the top two seeds at the French Open tennis tournament next week, according to ATP Tour rankings released today.

Brazilian team

ROME, May 21. (Reuters): Brazil's World Cup soccer team arrived in Rome yesterday and their coach said they were in high spirits and had the confidence needed to win.

Cup tuneup

NEW DELHI, May 21. (AP): Peter Vermes scored just 15 seconds into the second half to give the United States a 1-0 victory over Partizan Belgrade of Yugoslavia yesterday in the Americans' final domestic tune-up for the World Cup.

Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS, May 21. (AP): Seventy-five minutes of tension yesterday at the end of rain-shortened final day of qualifications for the Indianapolis 500 put John Paul Jr. and Rocky Moran into the 33-car lineup and kept out Johnny Rutherford and rookie Jeff Andretti.

Kiwi batsmen hammer Middlesex

Rutherford hits half ton

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): New Zealand showed the depth of their batting as Ken Rutherford and Mark Priest hit unbeaten half-centuries in a timely, unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 114 against Middlesex at Lord's yesterday.

Rutherford hit 68 not out and left-arm spinner Priest made 51 not out to lift New Zealand from 170 for five to 284 for five, at which point John Wright declared 48 behind on first innings.

Wright was probably seeking a challenging last-day declaration from Middlesex, who ended the second day of the three-day cricket match on 64 for one — 112 ahead.

The innings by Rutherford and Priest, backed by 54 from opener Wright, brought the number of first-class scores beyond 50 on the tour to 12, but only Trevor Franklin has gone on to make a century.

Wright said: "There have been



Ken Rutherford

a lot of good scores, but only Trevor with his hundred against Somerset has gone on to the big one. That's a little bit worrying, but at least nearly all the batsmen have spent a certain time at the crease."

Wright batted stylishly for 121 minutes before slashing pace bowler Simon Hughes to debutant Paul Weekes in the gully, while Martin Crowe (13)

failed and Andrew Jones (44) went lbw to Hughes when shaping for a big innings.

Mark Greatbatch had also established himself when, on 34, he tried to leave a delivery from Hughes, only to see it divert off the bat and on to his stumps.

Rutherford impressively stroked 11 fours in 125 minutes off 121 balls and his stand with Priest, who faced 88 balls, took 108 minutes.

Danny Morrison, the touring side's quickest bowler, struck with his first ball when Middlesex held again, Richard Hadlee holding a superb gully catch off Mike Roseberry.

But Morrison, who conceded 100 runs of 22 overs in the first innings, then produced a sequence of half-volleys to Mark Ramprakash, who struck him for four successive fours.

Scoreboard
MIDDLESEX first innings 332 for six declared (D. Haynes 181, P. Downton 57 not out; M. Snedden live for 63).

NEW ZEALAND first innings (over-

night 13 for no wicket):

J. Crowe c Downton b Cowans 14

J. Wright c Weeks b Hughes 54

A. Jones lbw b Hughes 41

M. Crowe c Downton b

Tuifili 13

M. Greatbatch b Hughes 34

K. Rutherford not out 68

M. Priest not out 51

Extras (b-7 lb-1 nb-1) 9

Total (five wickets declared) 284

Fall of wickets: 1-44 2-77 3-103 4-

148 5-170

Did not bat: R. Hadlee, I. Smith, M.

Snedden, D. Morrison

Bowling: Cowans 21-4-56-1,

Hughes 23-2-6-47-2, Tuifili 20-5-64-

1, Thursfield 16-7-41-0, Weeks 13-6-

28-0

MIDDLESEX second innings

D. Haynes not out 25

M. Roseberry c Hadlee b

Morrison 0

M. Ramprakash not out 36

Extras (b-1 nb-2) 3

Total (one wicket) 64

Fall of wicket: 1-4

Bowling (to date) Hadlee 6-2-10-0,

Morrison 8-0-38-1, Priest 3-1-10-0,

Jones 1-0-5-0

Morris, Barnett share record

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Openers John Morris and Kim Barnett both hit hundreds as they shared a record partnership of 232 to power Sunday League pacemakers Derbyshire to a last-ball victory over Somerset at Taunton.

Morris lashed a league personal best of 134 off 116 balls and his opening stand with Barnett, who struck exactly 100 from 116 deliveries, was the county's best for any wicket in the 40 overs cricket competition.

Derbyshire, chasing Somerset's imposing 258 for seven, faltered when their openers were dismissed but completed a seven-wicket win in style when South African Adrian Kuiper, needing to score one off the last ball bowled by paceman Adrian Jones, hooked it for six.

The big hitting of Morris and Barnett upstaged Somerset's South African opener Jimmy

Cook, who became the first batsman this season to score 1,000 runs in all competitions during his 59 from 46 balls.

Derbyshire's win left them level at the top on 16 points with Kent, who beat Yorkshire by 69 runs at Canterbury.

Left-handed opener Simon Hinks hit 89 from 114 89 balls with two sixes and seven fours to spur Kent to 245 for five, while West Indian paceman Tony Metrick had a burst of three for nought in five balls late in Yorkshire's innings of 176.

Ex-England opener Graeme Fowler slammed 108 off 110 balls as defending champions Lancashire beat Leicestershire by 23 runs at Old Trafford.

Chris Broad, another former Test opener, cracked his best League score of 106 not out from 125 deliveries to sweep Nottinghamshire to victory by eight wickets over Surrey at Trent Bridge.

All-rounder Derek Pringle, named in England's squad for this week's one-day internationals against New Zealand, hammered an unbeaten 48 off 24 balls to carry Essex to their first League win of the season, by two wickets with three balls to spare against Worcestershire at Worcester.

Standings

Sunday League cricket table after Sunday's matches (tabulated — played, won, lost, tied, no result, points):

Derbyshire	5	4	1	0	0	16
Kent	5	4	1	0	0	16
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	0	12
Middlesex	4	3	1	0	0	12
Nottingham	4	2	2	0	0	12
Gloucester	4	2	1	0	1	10
Glamorgan	4	2	2	0	0	8
Sussex	3	2	1	0	0	8
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	0	8
Worcester	3	2	1	0	0	8
Leicestershire	4	1	3	0	0	4
Northampton	3	1	2	0	0	4
Somerset	3	1	2	0	0	4
Yorkshire	4	1	3	0	0	4
Essex	5	1	4	0	0	4
Hampshire	3	0	2	0	1	2
Surrey	3	0	3	0	0	0

Larkins out of international

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Opener Wayne Larkins has been forced to pull out of England's squad for the two one-day cricket internationals against New Zealand this week.

Larkins, 36, broke a finger during net practice 10 days ago and was due to test his hand in a second XI match today.

Larkins' place in the 13-man party will go to Lancashire mid-

die order batsman Neil Fair-

brother, who was on standby.

The change opens up the possibility of former England captain David Gower opening with his successor Graham Gooch in Wednesday's first one-day international at Headingley.

Gower has been recalled to England duty after being overlooked for this year's Caribbean tour.

\$6.2 million deal

ROME, May 21. (Reuters): Uefa Cup champions Juventus have signed Lazio winger Paolo Di Canio for 7.5 billion lire (\$6.2 million) as part of a multi-million dollar bid to strengthen the squad next season.

Rome-based Lazio said in a statement today that the two clubs and Di Canio reached agreement over the transfer yesterday.

Steinlager set to win

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Steinlager Two, a red-tailed ketch from New Zealand, looks set to sweep to victory in the southern English port of Southampton tomorrow morning after one of the world's most arduous yacht races.

"Short of being dismasted, the trophy's theirs," said a spokeswoman for the 33,000-mile Whitbread round the world yacht race, whose sixth and final leg ends in Southampton.

This morning Steinlager Two, captained by Peter Blake, was about 35 hours ahead overall of another New Zealand ketch, Fisher & Paykel, with 210 miles of the last leg to go.

The two ketches, with their extra speed advantage, have dominated the nine-month race with organisers praising their immaculate preparation and skilful crewing.

Third place is likely to be snatched by Switzerland's Pierre Fehlmann and his sloop Merit which today was managing to fend off British challenger Lawrie Smith in Rothmans.

As the sun rises Steinlager Two will sail up the English Channel and into Southampton water and a champagne reception.

The leading yachts just need a strong southeasterly wind to send them racing past the finish line, where an enthusiastic crowd of well-wishers is expected.

Seles gives Graf taste of her own medicine

WEST BERLIN, May 21. (AP): Monica Seles has a taste to savor in tennis, but even after beating World No. 1 Steffi Graf this weekend said she doesn't have one to drive a car.

The 16-year-old Yugoslav overpowered West German tennis ace Graf in the German Open tennis tournament in West Berlin yesterday, 6-4, 6-3 and picked up a \$100,000 check for her trouble.

"Maybe after the French Open I'll buy a car. I'm the only one of the top players who doesn't have a car," she said.

"My taste is a little exotic — I'd like a Lamborghini, but I'll settle for a red BMW. I still have to get my driver's license," Seles said with one of her typical giggles.

Does she feel like No. 1 after beating Graf?

"Oh no, this is just one match. I'm just happy that I'm playing well," she said.

And playing well she is. Seles has now wiped out two of the giants in women's tennis in succession.

She just came off an overpowering 6-1, 6-1 win over Martina Navratilova in Rome before arriving in Berlin, and now has a 24-match streak going.

Seles grabbed yesterday's win in a surprising 63 minutes, giving



Graf holds her head after losing to Seles. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graf, who is also known for winning matches in a hurry, a taste of her own medicine.

It was Graf's first loss in nearly a year, with 66 singles match wins since losing at the French Open last year.

Asked what the difference was in her game yesterday and in Brighton, England, where Graf beat her seven months ago, Seles said, "I'm much more experienced now and I wasn't afraid of her (Graf) as much as before."

Graf's usually dangerous left hand deserted her and Seles was slashing two-handed shots, forcing the West German around a court.

"I was so far away from play like that I can't expect to win. Monica didn't make many mistakes," Graf said after the match.

"At the moment it feels like setback, but I have to think. Didn't lose for almost a year. That can't be too bad," she added.

Robson selects 22-man Cup team

LONDON, May 21. (Reuters): Defender Mark Wright, who missed the last World Cup finals because of a broken leg, won his battle for selection for Italy today when England manager Bobby Robson named his 22-man squad.

The inclusion of Wright had been the biggest uncertainty as Robson prepared to announce his squad a day before England's penultimate warm-up match, against fellow World Cup qualifiers Uruguay.

As expected, David Seaman, who joined Arsenal last week for £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) was preferred to Chelsea's Dave Beasant as third choice goalkeeper behind Peter Shilton and Chris Woods.

Squad

Goalkeepers: Peter Shilton (Derby), Chris Woods (Glasgow Rangers), David Seaman (Arsenal).

Defenders: Gary Stevens (Glasgow Rangers), Paul Parker (Queen's Park Rangers), Des Walker (Nottingham Forest), Terry Butcher (Glasgow Rangers), Mark Wright (Derby), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Tony Dorigo (Chelsea).

Midfielders: Chris Waddle (Marseille), Trevor Steven (Glasgow Rangers), Steve Hodge (Nottingham Forest), Neil Webb (Manchester United), Bryan Robson (Manchester United), Paul Gascoigne (Tottenham), Steve McMahon (Liverpool).

Forwards: John Barnes (Liverpool), Peter Beardsley (Liverpool), Gary Lineker (Tottenham), Steve Bull (Wolverhampton), David Platt (Aston Villa).

England will be hoping to extend their long unbeaten run and avoid serious injuries tomorrow when they meet fellow qualifiers Uruguay.

The South Americans, widely recognised as one of the most skilful and talented soccer nations, are also notorious for their often brutal play and will certainly provide a robust threat to England's stretch of 17 matches without defeat.

KTV will show this match live today at 10.00 pm on channels 6 and 45.

Last Friday, during a 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland in Belfast, Uruguay were involved in a match riddled with niggling fouls and Robson made it clear he expects his players to receive maximum protection from the referee as they seek to give a rousing farewell performance.

"We've never had any trouble with Uruguay, but one man can control it if we do," he said, "if the referee sends the guy off at the first sign of brutality, that's all he needs to do."

Robson hopes to see his team win handsomely to take their unbeaten run to within one match of England's record of 19 matches without defeat.

Lanka, Rangers win

A DEVASTATING spell of bowling by Dhammika led Lanka Lions (Jamaal Al Ghamini) to a convincing 8-wicket win over YMCAs in the GCL Summer League match played on Friday.

After winning the toss, BMW skipper Amjad elected to bat, but must have regretted his decision as he was caught at mid-on by Donald off the bowling of Disanayake in the very first over of the match.

Meraj bowling from the other end with tremendous pace and accuracy accounted for the wickets of Zahid, Khalid and Tariq and was quite unfortunate to have missed a hat-trick. When the batsmen were about to settle down Dhammika introduced himself and ripped through the remaining batting line-up to close the BMW innings for 95 runs by taking 5 wickets for 12 runs. Gaminai assisted him with his spin bowling by taking 1 for 13.

Fow BMW only Aftab batted with some responsibility and scored 36 valuable runs including 6 fours and one six.

Namali and Madugalle opened the innings for Lanka Lions, but the latter was out bowled by Khalid. Ranil joined Namali after losing the wicket of Meraj for 11 runs and both of them scored the remaining runs without any further loss of wickets. Namali and Ranil remained unbeaten with 59 and 21 runs respectively.

On Friday June 11 Lanka

Lions defeated YMCA in their opening fixture of the GCL Summer League. Put to bat first YMCAs scored 128 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 21 overs. Bitu Singh scored 29 and Javed Kaloo remained unbeaten with a well played 54 runs. For the Lanka Lions Donald took 2 wickets and Dhammika and Gaminai took one each.

When the time ran out Lanka Lions had scored 100 runs in 16 overs and were awarded the winners due to a faster run rate. Meraj scored 34 and Donald remained unbeaten with 19 runs. Anu bowled well for YMCA by taking 3 wickets for 23 runs.

Falcon Cricket Club beat Rangers in a Summer League Cricket match Friday morning at the EPI Ground.

Rangers won the toss and batted first. They scored 186 runs for five wickets in 23 overs. Peley hit 38 runs, Naveed 35, and Sejid 33. Falcon replied with 179 runs for 3 wickets in just 18 overs but had a better run rate average.

Falcon started very badly, losing their first wicket with just one run on the board. Then veteran Ghulam Haider joined Zahid Butt at number 3 and scored a partnership of 178 runs. Zahid was finally bowled on the last delivery of match. He scored 96 runs, including 6 sixes and 5 fours.

Ghulam Haider remained not out on 82. Sharma claimed two wickets for 26 runs for Rangers.

AC Milan set to seal hat-trick

VIENNA, May 21. (Reuters): Win or lose, AC Milan will seal remarkable hat-trick in Wednesday's European Cup final with Benfica.

Victory for the reigning champions and firm favourites would complete an unprecedented six of triumphs by one nation in the three European competitions following Sampdoria's win in the Cup Winners' Cup and Juventus in the Uefa Cup for Italy.

Defeat, palatable only to Portuguese fans and those who wish ill of the most attractive team in Europe, would leave Milan empty-handed for the third time in a month, a woeful ending to a season in which they teetered on the brink of stunning success.

Though few doubt the pervasive influence of Dutch stars Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit in Milan's triumphs, an Italian victory would be a big boost to the host nation's morale just before next month's World Cup finals.

But to achieve it, Milan must put behind them the nightmare which threatened to wreck their season late last month. The 2-

Watch this match live tomorrow at 9.15 pm on channels 6 and 45.

defeat in Verona, in which Rijkaard, Van Basten, and defender Alessandro Costacurta were off, cost them an Italian League title which had seemed secure when they led 1-0 at halftime.

The after-effects of that shock wave cost them the Italian Cup three days later when they surprisingly lost at home to Juventus in the final.

The key to their ability to restore the winning habit may well be Gullit, the dreadlocked 1987 European Player of the Year.

The Dutch all-rounder returned to action last month after being sidelined for almost a year by a knee injury after the 1989 European Cup final when he scored twice in the 4-0 victory over Swansea Bay.

Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi is being cagey about whether he will play Gullit, who slightly injured a thigh muscle last week. "I'll make my decision about him only on Wednesday morning after the final training session in Vienna. This is simple truth," he said.

Rund only on Wednesday morning after the final training session in Vienna. This is simple truth," he said.

Rund has hardly played for a year," he said.

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